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1941 - 1991

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-91-063
Tuesday
2 April 1991

Daily Report
East Asia

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Japan

PRC Urged To Join Nonproliferation Treaty

OW0104131891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1258 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO—Japan on Monday called on China to take steps to halt the spread of nuclear weapons and sign the treaty on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The officials said Japan made the call during bilateral consultations held at the ministry on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

They said the Japanese delegation hailed China's decision to take part for the first time, along with France, as an observer at last September's review conference in Geneva of the Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT).

But the delegation urged China to go a step further by fully joining the 140-odd countries that have signed the 1970 treaty.

The Chinese delegation was quoted as replying that China, while not an NPT signatory, already subscribes to its three main objectives, namely the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, the promotion of nuclear disarmament, and promotion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

While declining to respond to a Japanese query as to why China would subscribe to the NPT but not sign it, the delegation said it would convey Japan's urgings to the Chinese Government upon returning to Beijing, officials said.

The Japanese side pointed out that France, the only other nuclear power not to sign the treaty, is reassessing its 23-year opposition and may be joining its 11 partners in the European Community as a signatory.

China and France have charged in the past that the treaty discriminates in favor of the United States and the Soviet Union and would thus affect the independence of their own nuclear policies.

Officials said the Chinese side briefed the Japanese on China's adolescent nuclear energy program, including two initial facilities under construction and several others still on the drawing board.

The Chinese delegation said the country's first nuclear energy facility, a 300,000-kilowatt reactor under construction in a city near Shanghai, is expected to become operational within the year.

A facility with two 900,000-kilowatt reactors is also being built at a separate location near Shanghai, with one reactor to be operational in 1991 and the other in 1992.

The Chinese officials explained that by the end of the century China expects to only have 2.4 percent of its energy needs met by nuclear energy but plans to rapidly increase the percentage.

China is believed to have become the world's fifth nuclear power in 1964, when it exploded its first nuclear weapon, but has been slow in the development of nuclear energy for peaceful utilization.

Officials said the Japanese delegation expressed interest in the safety aspects of China's nuclear energy program in light of the two countries' proximity.

They said Japan explained its policies and experience with nuclear safety issues and outlined cooperation in that field with South Korea and the Soviet Union.

The Chinese delegation was said to have expressed a desire to learn from Japan's experiences and to carry out exchanges and cooperation.

The consultations were the second held so far based on an accord concluded between the two countries in 1986 on bilateral cooperation in the field of nuclear energy. The first were held in January 1989.

The second meeting had been delayed due to the decline in bilateral relations in the aftermath of the June 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Foreign Minister To Visit PRC 5-7 Apr

OW0204011491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0030 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama will visit China for three days from Friday, becoming the first Japanese foreign minister to do so since high-level visits were suspended in the aftermath of the June 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown, the cabinet decided Tuesday morning.

During the April 5-7 visit, Nakayama will meet with his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen in Beijing on Saturday.

Nakayama, who will be laying the groundwork for an expected visit by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu within the year, is also expected to hold talks with such leaders as Prime Minister Li Peng and Vice Premier Wu Xueqian.

On Saturday, Nakayama will also meet with Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Beijing to promote a recent Japanese peace initiative aimed at breaking the impasse between the four Cambodian factions over a United Nations Security Council peace plan.

Nakayama had also been expected to meet in Beijing with visiting British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, but officials indicated the meeting may be called off due to scheduling difficulties.

Officials said Nakayama will press China to curtail its arms exports and work to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the wake of the Persian Gulf War.

He made a similar request to Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh in Tokyo on March 29.

Nakayama, following up on requests made to Bessmertnykh and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker a week before, is likely to ask China to endorse a revision of the 1945 UN Charter deleting references to Japan and other countries vanquished in World War II as "enemy states."

He is also expected to call for China's support of Japan's demand that the Soviet Union recognize Japanese sovereignty over four islands in its northern extremities that Moscow occupied and annexed after Japan's surrender in World War II.

Officials said that in his meeting with Li Peng, Nakayama will convey Kaifu's intention to visit China within the year, as well as Japan's hope to have the visit reciprocated.

Nakayama will become the fourth Japanese cabinet minister to visit China since the Tiananmen Square incident, when many prodemocracy demonstrators were killed by the Chinese Army. His visit comes just after that of International Trade and Industry Minister Eiichi Nakao, who went there from March 20-24.

Government To Accept More PRC Trainees

OW3103130291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1008 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—The government has decided to accept more Chinese engineering trainees in fiscal 1991 in response to China's request for a full-scale regular training system, government officials said Sunday.

The government plans to accept 250 Chinese trainees in the initial year, compared with 50 accepted in fiscal 1990. Fiscal 1991 begins Monday.

The plan will be presented to the Chinese when Foreign Ministry, Labor Ministry and other government agency officials meet with a visiting Chinese delegation in Tokyo on Tuesday, the sources said.

The delegation is being led by Wu Yongxing, deputy director of the Chinese State Bureau of Foreign Experts Affairs.

During the meetings, the Japanese will urge the Chinese to organize a governmental agency to handle the trainee program.

While the trainee program will help China improve its engineering skills to help its economic development, it may also help ease the tight labor shortage in Japanese enterprises, industry sources said.

Last December, Chinese Premier Li Peng worked out a plan for sending trainees to Japan and sponsored later preparatory meetings in China, the Japanese Government sources said.

The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade also proposed an expanded Japan-China cooperation program for the training when a working-level trade committee meeting was held in Tokyo in mid-March, they said.

The Construction Ministry is also preparing a separate program to accept Chinese and other foreign construction and civil engineering trainees. It has already set up a center for the planned program, the same sources said.

In addition, four government offices, including the Labor and Justice Ministries, will establish an organization in July to help Japanese offices for foreign trainees screen applicants and to offer language and other guidance to trainees.

Kaifu, Agriculture Minister Meet on Rice Issue

OW3103122591 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Prime ~~Minister Kaifu met~~ with Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Kondo this morning. Regarding the issue of opening Japan's rice market, which the United States has strongly requested, both confirmed that when Prime Minister Kaifu attends the Japan-U.S. summit talks, to be held on 4 April, his position would support the conventional policy that from the standpoint of food security Japan will meet demands for rice with domestic production.

During the meeting, Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Kondo explained in detail to the prime minister the current situation surrounding the issue of opening Japan's rice market, citing the latest progress in the Uruguay Round talks of the GATT and the removal of U.S.-grown rice displayed in an international food exhibition in Chiba Prefecture.

After the meeting, Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Kondo said: It is natural for nations concerned to cooperate with each other to make the Uruguay Round talks a success. We are not, however, at a stage where Japan must make any concessions on the issue of opening the rice market. I think that Japan does not need to change its conventional attitude toward the rice issue at the upcoming summit talks.

Agriculture Minister Remarks on Rice Issue

OW0204043491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0412 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—The dispute over foreign access to the Japanese rice market is unlikely to be the top agenda item at the summit meeting between Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and U.S. President George Bush, Farm Minister Motoji Kondo said Tuesday.

Kaifu and Bush are to meet in California late this week.

Bush is expected to urge Japan to buy more U.S. rice at his meeting with Kaifu, the minister for agriculture, forestry and fisheries, told a regular press conference.

Japan will maintain its nearly four-decade-old farm policy of shutting foreign rice out of the market in an attempt to secure self-sufficiency in the country's staple food, Kondo said.

His remarks were a response to comments by leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, including former Deputy Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, indicating that a partial lifting of the rice import ban was inevitable.

On the rice issue, LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, on his way home from meeting with Bush in Washington, also hinted last Friday that it would be unreasonable for Japan to insist on self- sufficiency.

Miyazawa Calls for Flexible Stance on Rice

OW0104122091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1201 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Sapporo, April 1 KYODO—Former Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Monday said that Japan should take a flexible stance toward partial liberalization of rice imports if the international community accepts a Japanese "food security" policy.

Miyazawa said at a press conference in Sapporo, northern Japan, that a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks is indispensable for the world economy and maintaining good Japan-U.S. relations.

Miyazawa, however, demanded that the Japanese argument that countries with low degrees of self-sufficiency in food should be allowed to retain a ban on imports of certain basic farm products for national security be first acknowledged by other nations in the course of the multilateral trade negotiations under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"After the 'food security' proposition being accepted by the international community, Japan should show its own realistic solution to the liberalization issue of the country's rice market," said Miyazawa, who was visiting Sapporo for an election campaign for candidates running in April 7 local elections on the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) tickets.

Miyazawa, leader of the third largest faction in the party, also suggested that the Japanese Government make some concessions over liberalization of rice imports in the final stages of the trade negotiations.

The liberalization of the Japanese rice market is expected to be taken up in the summit talks between Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and U.S. President George Bush scheduled for Thursday in Newport Beach on the outskirts of Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, Michio Watanabe, former chairman of the LDP's policy- making policy affairs research council, said at a separate press conference in Sapporo that Soviet acknowledgment of Japanese sovereignty over the four Soviet-held islands off northeastern Hokkaido is a precondition for Japanese economic assistance to the Soviet Union.

But Watanabe, head of the fourth-ranked faction in the LDP, said that there is no obstacle to Japanese humanitarian assistance for the Soviet Union.

Japan's claim to the four islands—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and Habomai group—seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II is likely to dominate talks between Japanese leaders and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who will visit Japan on April 16-19 as the first Soviet leader to do so.

Japan has insisted the territorial dispute be solved before conclusion of a bilateral peace treaty and massive Japanese aid to the Soviet Union.

Business Leader Urges Easing Rice Ban

OW0204090891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0858 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—Takashi Ishihara, chairman of the influential Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), urged the government Tuesday to ease controls on rice imports.

Ishihara, describing the near total ban on rice imports as absurd, said it is time the government should consider a compromise on the issue.

He urged the government to act promptly to strengthen Japanese agriculture while considering a compromise on the import issue.

Japan is under growing pressure from the United States to open its rice market to imports.

Ishihara said the idea of partially lifting the ban is gaining ground within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

In the meantime, he said, domestic agricultural production should be urgently streamlined.

KYODO Previews Kaifu's Meeting With Bush

OW0104130891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1237 GMT 1 Apr 91

[By Jocelyn Ford]

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu heads to Los Angeles on Wednesday for talks with U.S. President George Bush aimed at demonstrating bilateral relations are on a firm footing, despite the loss in confidence in Japan shown in recent U.S. public opinion polls on the Persian Gulf war. But with delicate trade issues lurking in the background some analysts say Kaifu may fall short of his goals in Thursday's planned two-hour summit meeting and a subsequent joint news conference.

"Kaifu is walking into a war zone," said Ronald Morse, executive vice president of the Economic Strategy Institute. "By every indicator he can't go into the situation and come out a winner because of... the emotional level, and because the (Persian Gulf) war is still going on," Morse said on a recent trip to Japan.

For Japan, the first face-to-face encounter between the two leaders in seven months is needed to assert Japan's role in seeking a lasting Middle East peace.

The summit, to be preceded by a breakfast meeting with Vice President Dan Quayle, was arranged after Bush postponed a planned trip to Japan due to the Gulf war and subsequently gave priority to talks with Western leaders who sent troops to the Gulf.

Japan, which contributed 11 billion dollars to the U.S.-led military coalition, decided not to send personnel after a parliamentary wrangle over the interpretation of its antiwar Constitution.

During the meetings, Japan plans to express readiness to make financial contributions to help restore Middle East economies, and to take the lead in solving environmental problems caused by oil spills and the hundreds of Kuwaiti oil wells burning out of control.

Kaifu will also assure Bush of a new policy to step-up high-level political exchanges with Israel. Members of the U.S. Congress and pro-Israel lobby have complained about Japan's minimal contacts and trade with Israel aimed at placating oil-exporting Arab nations.

Kaifu is also anxious to coordinate policy toward the Soviet Union in advance of a historic visit to Japan by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev later this month, as well as toward China and Asia. The U.S. has expressed support for Japan's position on a border dispute with the Soviet Union, but so far there have been no high-level discussions of Tokyo's plan to offer large-scale economic assistance should Gorbachev promise to return four islands off Hokkaido.

Accused at home of acting like a U.S. henchman during the Persian Gulf war, Kaifu will try to appeal to domestic constituents by lobbying for restrictions on exports of conventional arms and by taking a firm stance on the sensitive rice issue.

Kaifu is expected to request that the U.S. not "create a second Iraq," and lend support for a Japanese initiative to establish an international monitoring system for trade of conventional arms, a senior government official said.

There will be no compromise on U.S. demands that Japan end its virtual ban on rice imports because "Japanese farmers are more important than American public opinion," asserted the official, who asked not to be named.

The summit meeting comes only days in advance of nationwide local elections, and Kaifu will be intent on not offending rural constituents, traditionally loyal supporters of the governing Liberal Democratic Party.

Specific trade disputes such as opening Japan's construction market, evening out semiconductor trade, and liberalizing Japanese financial markets are not likely to be raised, but Japan has prepared responses "just in case," an official says.

Kaifu will explain Japan's opposition to proposed legislation that could impede Japanese investments in the U.S. by explaining their contribution to the U.S. economy. Japan now accounts for 23 percent of all foreign investment in the U.S., and 40 percent of exports from foreign-owned industries.

"It is necessary for the U.S. to understand the reality of the economic interdependence of our two countries," says Prof. Takeshi Igarashi, a specialist on U.S. diplomacy at Tokyo University. Igarashi and other skeptics remain doubtful, however, about whether Kaifu will be successful in reversing U.S. public opinion, which in recent polls has repeatedly shown harsher criticism toward Japan than toward other major contributors to the war effort.

It is hoped that by appearing side-by-side with Bush at the joint news conference, the American people will get the message that the two remain good friends and solid allies, remarked Kaifu's foreign policy aide.

According to Foreign Ministry analysis, one reason why Japan has seen its popularity ratings plunge in the U.S. is that Japan was rarely figured prominently in news coverage of the allied successes in the Gulf. But without bold new proposals or sweeping mass media and meet-the-people campaigns, the brief meeting is unlikely to make much of an impact on Americans at large, critics say. "If Kaifu can make a dramatic proposal he can improve his image in the U.S. and in Japan," says Igarashi. "I don't expect that."

Kaifu Remarks on Talks With Bush, Gorbachev

OW0204062191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0553 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Tuesday that Asia's stability will be a primary concern during his upcoming summits with the presidents of the United States and the Soviet Union.

"At a time when the world is going through dramatic transitions, it is important to strive for peace and stability in the Asia Pacific region," Kaifu told a welcoming ceremony for recent graduates joining the civil service.

Speaking on the eve of his departure for talks with U.S. President George Bush, Kaifu said he expects the United States to continue playing a key role in maintaining security in the Asia- Pacific region.

"I plan to discuss the future of our relations with the United States, which are important for peace in Asia," he said.

Kaifu is to meet with Bush for two hours at Newport Beach in southern California on Thursday.

April 16-19 he will be host to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who will be the first Kremlin leader to visit Japan. Kaifu told the new government employees that Japan plans to cooperate with Gorbachev's policy of perestroyka.

He also said Japan will not follow an "unprincipled separation of politics and economics."

The expression appeared to indicate a further softening from Japan's long-standing policy of linking economic and political ties, which formerly kept relations with the Soviet Union to a minimum.

The position on economic and political ties was modified in May 1989 when former Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno announced during a trip to the Soviet Union for talks with Gorbachev that Japan was seeking a "balanced expansion" of political and economic ties.

A bitter dispute over ownership of four islands off Hokkaido has gone on since Soviet troops seized them after World War II and has kept the two countries from signing a peace treaty.

Resolving the territorial dispute with the Soviet Union is expected to be a major focus of both summits.

In talks with Bush, Kaifu also intends to discuss promoting relations with China, two years after the June 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown on prodemocracy demonstrators.

Kaifu is expected to travel to China this summer in a visit that may help end a ban on high-level political contacts with China many industrialized countries imposed after Tiananmen Square incident.

If the visit takes place, Kaifu would be the first leader of a major industrialized nations to travel to Beijing since diplomatic sanctions were imposed.

Japan's role in Asia was also Kaifu's major theme in talks earlier in the day with Belgian Deputy Prime Minister Willy Claes.

"Guaranteeing prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region is part of Japan's international responsibilities," a Foreign Ministry official quoted Kaifu as saying.

Claes, paying a courtesy call at the prime minister's official residence, cited the two summit meetings as evidence of Japan's expanding role in the international arena.

Claes, who also is the minister for economic affairs, arrived in Japan Monday on a five-day visit to exchange views with government officials and the private sector on economic relations.

Kaifu Hopes To Ease Strained U.S. Relations

OW0204125191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1233 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, bracing for a cool reception from the United States, pledged Tuesday to help clear up misunderstandings that have strained bilateral ties since the Persian Gulf war. "I've heard of some unpleasant words voiced by members of the U.S. Congress and the American public, but I plan to say what I have to say, and earn their understanding," Kaifu told a farewell party on the eve of his departure for the U.S.

Kaifu will meet President George Bush on Thursday in Newport Beach, California, his first summit with Bush in seven months.

"Our bilateral relations are important so I hope we can arrive at a mutual understanding," Kaifu told government officials and journalists gathered at his official residence.

Meanwhile, government sources said Kaifu will urge Bush on Thursday to visit Japan before the July economic summit of seven industrialized nations in London. Kaifu made the decision at a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada and other senior government officials on the upcoming summit, the sources said.

"If the prime minister succeeds early in realizing Bush's visit to Japan, he will gain big points in the domestic political arena," one Japanese Government official said.

Government sources said there is 50-50 chance the U.S. will accept the proposal for a presidential visit before the London summit.

Bush was widely expected to visit Japan earlier this year but he was forced to postpone the trip due to the Gulf war. Kaifu therefore decided to pay a four-day visit to the U.S.to consult on bilateral relations ahead of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Japan on April 16-19, the sources said.

U.S. public opinion polls indicate feelings toward Japan have become increasingly negative, partly because Tokyo was perceived as not having done enough to support the U.S.-led war effort. Though Japan contributed nearly 11 billion dollars to support the multinational forces—third after Kuwait and Saudi Arabia—Japan did not send troops because of constitutional constraints. Japan's Constitution bans the use of force to resolve international disputes.

Relations were further aggravated when U.S. rice producers were forced recently to withdraw U.S. grown rice at a food exhibition in Japan. The United States has been pressing Japan to allow token imports of rice to help break a deadlock at the Uruguay Round of multilateral talks on liberalizing agricultural trade. Bush voiced his displeasure over the incident in a meeting last month with Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and also expressed concern over reports of rising anti-American sentiment in Japan.

Officials from both Japan and the U.S. have said they hope Thursday's two-hour summit at the wealthy beach community near Los Angeles will help reaffirm friendly and stable bilateral relations.

Kaifu is also scheduled to meet Vice President Dan Quayle before returning to Japan on Saturday.

On Monday, U.S. Ambassador to Japan Michael Armacost met Tadamori Oshima, deputy chief cabinet secretary, and stressed the importance of taking a step toward liberalizing rice imports, government sources said.

Political analysts noted, however, that it will be difficult for Kaifu to make a political decision on the rice issue before local elections throughout Japan are held on April 7 and 21.

More on LDP Secretary General's U.S. Visit

OW2803012891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0050 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Washington, March 27 KYODO—Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Wednesday arrived in Washington from Moscow for talks with U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker.

In Moscow Monday and Tuesday, Ozawa met with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to discuss bilateral relations prior to Gorbachev's first visit to Japan April 16-19.

In the meetings, Gorbachev expressed willingness to deal with a territorial dispute between the two nations when he visits Japan. The dispute over the four Soviet-held islands off northeastern Hokkaido is expected to be a major topic in the summit meeting between Gorbachev and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

In Washington, Ozawa is expected to discuss the results of his Moscow trip and brief U.S. leaders on Japan-Soviet relations, including the islands dispute.

He also is likely to exchange opinions on Japan-U.S. relations which have worsened over Japan's passive role in the Persian Gulf War and its closed rice market.

Ozawa will stop overnight Friday in Boston before leaving for Japan on Saturday.

Ozawa Meets Defense Secretary

OW2903054691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0430 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Washington, March 28 KYODO—The Persian Gulf War shocked the Soviet military into drawing up plans to streamline its Air Force, U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney told a leading Japanese politician Thursday.

Cheney made the remark during an informal dinner with Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), according to Hiroshi Kumagai, an LDP parliamentarian accompanying Ozawa.

Former U.S. Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter, now chairman of the Republican National Committee, also met Ozawa and sought the opening of the Japanese rice market, Kumagai said at a news briefing.

"I am from Iwate Prefecture where we grow only rice," Kumagai quoted Ozawa as telling Yeutter.

Also present at the informal dinner at a Chinese restaurant were Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Linn Williams and Edward Rogers, deputy assistant to President George Bush and executive assistant to Chief of Staff John Sununu.

Kumagai said the Americans thanked Ozawa for his efforts in spearheading a Japanese campaign of support for the U.S.-led allied forces against Iraq.

Ozawa Promises National Role

OW2903012491 Tokyo KYODO in English 2353 GMT 28 Mar 91

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Washington, March 28 KYODO—Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), on Thursday pledged Japan's readiness to share responsibility with the United States for bringing peace and stability to the Middle East and elsewhere.

He made the pledge in separate meetings with President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker.

Ozawa said after the meetings that both Bush and Baker praised Japan's Persian Gulf contributions and vowed to fight against the anti-Japanese sentiment in the U.S. stemming from Japan's limited support in the Persian Gulf War.

In a related development, the White House said Bush will meet with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu at the Four Seasons Hotel in Newport Beach, California on April 4.

During the White House meeting which lasted half an hour, Bush asked Ozawa about anti-American sentiment in Japan for U.S. criticism of the Japanese contribution in the Gulf crisis, Ozawa told reporters.

"I told the President there is a very limited anti-American sentiment," Ozawa related. "But as a politician, I promised to endeavor to overcome such sentiment," he added.

Bush also told Ozawa that he and his wife Barbara are looking forward to a visit to Japan within the year, according to Japanese officials who attended the White House meeting.

Ozawa was the second Japanese leader to meet Bush and Baker in a week, after Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama.

Ozawa said he told to Bush, "The Japanese people support the Japan-U.S. partnership and have growing awareness of the need for responsibility-sharing as a member of the international community."

Ozawa, fresh from two days of talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow, said he told Bush and Baker that the Japan-U.S. relationship will not be impaired by a closer dialogue between Japan and the Soviet Union.

Baker told Ozawa in their 45-minute meeting that the United States continues to support the Japanese claim for four Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido.

In his meeting with Baker, Ozawa said he pointed to "a very speedy transformation" of Japan in the wake of the Persian Gulf War into a country prepared to share responsibility in the coming years.

Ozawa said at a news conference that he conveyed to Baker the dangers of "mutual animosity" between the Japanese and American people stemming from the Japanese contribution in the Persian Gulf war.

Japan has pledged some 11 billion dollars in contributions to the U.S.-led allied forces against Iraq, but the absence of Japanese troops in the Gulf region and the slowness in disbursing the pledge has drawn criticism from many Americans.

"I am deeply worried about the emergence of twisted nationalism in Japan" because of the U.S. criticism of Japan, Ozawa said he told Baker.

Baker, underscoring U.S.-Japan relations as the most important bilateral relationship, emphasized the strengthening of educational and cultural bonds between the two countries, a senior Japanese official told reporters after the State Department meeting.

As part of the U.S.-Japan global partnership, the official related, Baker called for Japanese financial assistance to Central American countries.

Baker, a Texan, also expressed the hope in his meeting with Ozawa that Japan would participate in a giant super collider project in Texas.

American critics of U.S. technology transfers to Japan and other countries have waged a campaign against foreign participation in the super collider.

Ozawa's talks with the U.S. leaders came a week before the Japan- U.S. summit at Newport Beach.

The State Department said the meeting between Baker and Ozawa was "very constructive."

The two also "discussed the need for our two countries to develop an effective global partnership encompassing political, security, and economic dimensions, and in this regard, to work together to reduce trade friction," the department said in a statement.

A senior U.S. official said Baker stressed the importance of the relationship with Japan for the United States.

A protege of former prime ministers Kakuei Tanaka and Noboru Takeshita, Ozawa received a renewed U.S. request for opening the Japanese rice market during a luncheon meeting with Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher.

"Secretary Mosbacher sought Japanese cooperation in bringing the Uruguay Round to a successful conclusion," said LDP lawmaker Hiroshi Kumagai, a member of the Ozawa mission.

Kumagai said at a news conference that Ozawa, from the rice- growing prefecture of Iwate, said that the rice issue has become prominent in the United States as a result of alleged Japanese threats to arrest U.S. rice industry representatives at a food fair in Makuhari, Chiba Prefecture.

Michael Farren, undersecretary of commerce for international affairs, explained to Ozawa the status of construction talks which opened Thursday and were to continue until Friday, Kumagai said.

"We have to solve the trade problems with the U.S. and I am confident we can," Ozawa said after meeting Bush, Baker, and Mosbacher.

He also said he believes Japan should participate in international peacekeeping operations despite opposition from pacifists in Japan.

During the White House session, Ozawa told Bush of his trip Friday to Fairhaven, just south of Boston, to attend a ceremony commemorating the 150th anniversary of the rescue of John Manjiro Nakahama.

John Manjiro, then 14, was rescued by a U.S. whaling ship in 1841 and went on to become the first Japanese to live in the continental U.S. He later became a whaler himself and returned to Japan to help pave the way for the nation's modernization drives.

Ozawa is one of six founding members of the John Manjiro Historical Group.

Rice Market Opening Hinted

OW3003054791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0532 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Boston, United States, March 29 KYODO—Japan's rising conservative party leader Ichiro Ozawa on Friday hinted at a departure from the country's long-standing ban on rice imports, saying international cooperation is necessary.

While reaffirming Japan's policy of meeting demand for rice with domestic produce, Ozawa said, "Japan should not break international cooperation by sticking to its own logic. The point is how to compromise Japanese principles."

Ozawa, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), told Japanese reporters in Boston he is sure Japan and the United States are able to settle the rice trade dispute.

He said Japan should make changes on its own initiative, rather than from outside pressure, and there is a difference between negotiations and changing policy.

The United States has strongly urged Japan to open its rice market, while Japan has vowed to continue its import ban on the argument of food security.

Tokyo says the rice problem should be resolved during the Uruguay Round of multinational trade negotiations.

Ozawa, who visited the Soviet Union earlier this week, talked with President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker in Washington on Thursday. In Moscow, he met with President Mikhail Gorbachev on Monday and Tuesday.

He is flying back to Tokyo on Sunday.

Ozawa Briefs Kaifu on U.S., USSR Visits

OW3103131891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1257 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, returned home Sunday from a weeklong visit for talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush.

In a one-hour report at Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's private residence, Ozawa said that Gorbachev hopes to talk sincerely with Kaifu on the dispute over Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido when he visits Japan on April 16-19.

Kaifu said he will seek a breakthrough in his talks with Gorbachev to solve the dispute over the islands seized by the Soviets at the end of World War II.

Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessemertnykh left Japan for China Sunday after a three-day visit to meet with Kaifu and his Japanese counterpart Taro Nakayama to prepare for Gorbachev's visit.

Ozawa also relayed Bush's message to Kaifu, saying he is looking forward to talks with Kaifu, who visits the United States April 3-6.

More on Remarks on Visits

OW0104101891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1003 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO—Japan should consider including U.S. firms in any future economic cooperation projects with the Soviet Union, Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), told government and party leaders Monday.

Briefing officials on his journey last week to Moscow and Washington, Ozawa said Japan must consider establishing a "third sector" combining public and private concerns, including U.S. firms, to deal with potential cooperative projects with the Soviet Union, party officials said.

Japanese leaders are hoping offers of economic cooperation with the Soviet Union will lead to a resolution of the territorial dispute over a number of islands off the northeast coast of Hokkaido.

Ozawa said he has already mentioned the idea of U.S. participation in future Japan-Soviet projects to U.S. Government officials, the officials said.

Ozawa said U.S. firms with an expertise in drilling oil wells would be invited to take part in the development of Siberian oil fields, the officials said.

U.S. participation would help overcome technical hurdles and alleviate concerns the U.S. might have about improved Japan-Soviet relations, Ozawa was quoted as saying.

The LDP secretary general explained that during his first meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow security issues were discussed but Gorbachev did not say anything concrete regarding the disputed territories, the officials said.

Ozawa said the main result of the second meeting was Gorbachev's recognition that the territorial issue has not been resolved, the officials said.

Looking forward to Gorbachev's visit to Tokyo later this month, Ozawa suggested that "preparing the landscape" for a meeting with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu over the territories has "progressed suitably" and that it would be best if they "took it up during their summit."

MITI Officials Say U.S. Misunderstands Trade

OW3003013191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0110 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO— Criticism against Japan in a trade report by U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills' office is based largely on misunderstandings, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) officials said late Friday.

The 1991 national trade estimate report on foreign trade barriers, which Hills presented to President George Bush on Friday, added several new items to a list of Japanese trade practices that Hills' office considers unfair, including imports of computers and paper products.

The MITI officials said Japan will make modifications if necessary, while trying to dispel the misunderstanding as well.

For example, the officials pointed out that on computer trade, the two nations have negotiated twice this year on the purchase of American computers by the Japanese Government and computer trade has been discussed at multilateral talks.

"In the first place, purchase by governments is what is being discussed at the multilateral general agreement on tariffs and trade talks," they said, and added that computer trade is conducted fairly under the principles of the agreement.

This year's report will not lead to U.S. economic retaliation under the Super 301 Provision of the 1988 Trade Act, which expired at the end of last year, the officials said.

Minister Opposes Controls on U.S.-Made Cars

OW3003130191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1106 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Nagoya, March 30 KYODO—International Trade and Industry [MITI] Minister Eiichi Nakao indicated Saturday he is opposed to U.S.-made Japanese cars being included in voluntary export curbs.

Nakao told a news conference that, personally speaking, it is questionable to talk equally about cars produced in Japan and in the United States in connection with Japan's voluntary car export controls.

Japan limits its car exports to the United States to 2.3 million vehicles a year.

Nakao made the remark in connection with growing demands in the United States that Japanese cars produced in the United States be subjected to voluntary curbs.

Kosuke Yamamoto, head of the Ministry's Machinery and Information Industries Bureau who is accompanying Nakao, said Japan's car exports to the United States in fiscal 1990 are expected to be about 1.85 million vehicles.

Yamamoto said Japan's decision to extend export controls in fiscal 1991 is a temporary step which would continue only until the bearish trend is ascertained, indicating the measure will be scrapped before the end of the year.

Nakao also pledged the government will make a thorough investigation on a recent accident at a nuclear power plant to restore public confidence in atomic power.

He said the radioactive leak caused by the accident was small in volume, but the activation of the emergency cooling control system in the reactor was unprecedented.

U.S. Shift in Intellectual Property Talks Noted

OW0104130591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0740 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO—The United States is no longer willing to adopt the widely followed "first-to-file" principle in granting patents, threatening prospects for agreement in international talks on intellectual property protection, sources at the patent office said Monday.

The U.S. has submitted a new proposal to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) that would allow each country to adopt either the first-to-file or first-to-invent principles, the sources said.

Last year, the U.S. filed a proposal calling for adoption of the first-to-file principle, which would have required Washington to change its longstanding patent policy.

The U.S. and the Phillipines are believed to be the only countries following the first-to-invent principle.

Washington's sudden policy shift has muddied the outlook for the current WIPO talks, aimed at formulating a new international accord on intellectual property rights to supplement the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, the officials said.

The Paris Convention provides some standards for national patent practices but does not specify which of the first-to-file or first- to-invent principles countries should follow.

WIPO, a specialized agency of the United Nations, administers the Paris Convention, the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, which deals with copyrights, and other agreements concerned with intellectual property.

"If the U.S. action causes other countries to withdraw their own proposals, that would considerably undermine the WIPO negotiations," a patent office official said.

WIPO is scheduled to hold a working-level meeting at The Hague in June, but the change in Washington's position has dimmed the possibility of an agreement being reached at that meeting, the official said.

The U.S. commissioner of patent and trademarks, Harry Manbeck, wrote in a letter to the WIPO director general that his government has not received sufficient support from the private sector for the proposed change in the patent system, the sources said.

Manbeck also cited the failure of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to reach agreement by its early December deadline, delaying the task of sorting out problems that must be resolved for the U.S. to accept the change in the system.

The GATT negotiation group on trade-related intellectual property rights is also working on a multilateral pact on intellectual property.

A U.S. Government committee on the issue is not expected to come up with any recommendation before June, when WIPO meets, Manbeck reportedly said in the letter.

MITI Officials on U.S. Stand on Chip Market

OW0204115791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1041 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—Washington has informed the Tokyo government that it will keep punitive tariffs in place on a wide range of Japanese electronics goods unless Japan promises a specific share of its market to foreign computer chips, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) officials said Tuesday.

The tough message came as vice ministers from the two countries prepared to meet in Washington in an attempt to close the wide gap in their positions over updating of the bilateral 1986 semiconductor pact which expires in July.

Frustrated by the sluggish pace of improvement in U.S. access to Japan's chip market, Washington has pressed Japan to promise at least a 20 percent share of its chip sales to foreign suppliers.

The Japanese Government, however, strongly opposes guaranteeing a fixed market share for foreign makers, charging this would erode the principles of free trade.

"We can understand (the U.S. chip makers') wish to hold a certain share in what is now the world's biggest chip market," a ministry official said, "and we will continue our efforts for them to expand their share. But we will never promise a (specific) share."

The government also says it will not even sit at the bargaining table unless the U.S. Government removes the remainder of the 100 percent tariffs that the administration of former President Ronald Reagan imposed in 1987 on 300 million dollars worth of Japanese electronics imports as sanctions against Japan's alleged violation of the pact.

Reagan lifted 135 million dollars worth of the sanctions several months later but the remaining 165 million dollars worth are still in effect.

The different market-share figures cited by each country have also contributed to the dispute.

U.S. manufacturers generally cite figures compiled by the World Semiconductor Trade Statistics, an independent trade organization, which put the foreign share of the Japanese chip market at 13.2 percent in the final quarter of 1990, up from 8.5 percent at the start of the accord.

The Japanese Government prefers to cite statistics from MITI, whose figures show foreigners doing far better, taking a 19.0 percent share at the end of 1990.

Officials Remark on Tariffs, Cut in Prices

OW3003092591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0858 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Japan will remove import quotas on beef and oranges on April 1, but high tariffs are likely to prevent a dramatic surge in imports or fall in prices.

Japan has agreed to liberalize the imports in bilateral negotiations with the United States and other major exporters, such as Australia.

The tariff rate on imported beef will be raised to 70 percent from the present 25 percent to protect the domestic industry.

This means shoppers will see little reduction in prices, even with the removal of the surcharge now imposed by the quasi- governmental Livestock Industry Promotion Council, officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said.

But, the officials said, prices will begin to come down later, as the tariff will be cut 10 percentage points in each of fiscal 1992 and 1993.

The officials also ruled out a decrease in prices of imported oranges because of a high seasonal tariff that will be imposed to protect domestic growers of "mikan," or tangerines.

The seasonal tariff rate, which will be imposed only when tangerines are harvested, has not been fixed.

Trading sources said a cold spell that caused a poor harvest in California, a major orange producing area, will also work to keep orange prices high.

They predicted, however, that orange prices will decline when production recovers. Liberalization of orange juice imports next year will also help bring down orange prices, they said.

Despite the government's protective measures such as tariffs, incentives and subsidies, Japanese cattle raisers and tangerine growers will face harsher business conditions as the United States is expected to put increased pressure on Japan to lower tariffs, the officials said.

Farmers are also having difficulty finding successors to take over their farms, as agriculture is declining in popularity among the younger generation.

Advisory Body Asked To Study Cut in Beef Prices

OW2603072691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0632 GMT 26 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 26 KYODO—Japan's Agriculture Minister on Tuesday asked an advisory body to study a cut in beef prices for the next fiscal year beginning April 1, officials said.

The reform package proposed by Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Motoji Kondo provides for reduction in beef prices to help domestically produced beef compete with the flood of cheaper foreign beef expected after the liberalization of beef imports on April 1.

The cut envisioned in the package, however, was smaller than expected, apparently in consideration of stiff opposition from some officials of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) who are concerned that a drastic price cut will turn farmers against the ruling party ahead of nationwide local elections scheduled in April.

Kondo's package, presented to a panel of the Livestock Industry Promotion Council, an advisory body to the farm minister, calls for freezing minimum prices guaranteed to producers per head of cattle at 304,000 yen for Japanese-style beef, 214,000 yen for other kinds of beef, and 165,000 yen for milk cattle.

The upper limit for wholesale prices of beef, which the government sets, would be pegged at 1,250 yen per kilogram, down 2.7 percent, while the lower limit would be cut 2.5 percent to 960 yen.

Under the proposal, "stable prices" for pork would be set at 400 to 565 yen per kilogram, unchanged from the current fiscal year.

U.S. Construction Talks End Without Accord

OW3003025291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0216 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Washington, March 29 KYODO—Japanese and American trade negotiators concluded two days of construction talks Friday without an agreement.

A senior Japanese official said the two countries will meet again soon—possibly in Tokyo—in a bid to narrow differences over interpretations of a 1988 agreement, the rankings of foreign firms, bid-rigging, and other issues.

The U.S. offered a compromise proposal to break the impasse in talks on the 1988 agreement to facilitate foreign participation in 17 major public works projects in Japan, the official said at a news briefing.

Japan has maintained that the agreement is designed to familiarize foreign construction firms with the Japanese market.

But the U.S. has called on Japan to help ease foreign participation in other public works projects in the Japanese market.

Officials declined to elaborate on the new American proposal.

The two countries also were sharply divided over the Japanese system of ranking foreign construction companies, a designated bidding procedure which U.S. officials say puts foreigners at a disadvantage.

The senior Japanese official said the two countries reached basic agreement on the creation of a system to handle complaints from foreign firms and on clarifying designation standards.

The Japanese delegation pointed out that "Buy American" regulations for American airport projects discriminate against Japanese and other foreign companies anxious to participate in such projects, the Japanese official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The U.S. has until May 1 to confirm or deny a previous finding that the Japanese construction market is closed to foreign companies.

Measures Drafted for Fair Construction Procedures

OW2503130791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1042 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 25 KYODO—The Construction Ministry unveiled Monday a package of measures aimed at increasing transparency in tender procedures for public works, a step toward opening the public works market more to foreign firms.

The package, slated to take gradual effect from next month, features introduction of an open bidding system on an experimental basis to allow more liberal bidding for projects, ministry officials said.

Under the current system, the ministry and local governments designate bidders eligible for public works projects, one aspect of the bidding process that has come under foreign criticism for keeping foreign bidders away from such projects.

According to the officials, the new bidding system will be applied to one or two projects slated for the next fiscal year, starting April 1.

The Construction Ministry will also stipulate in its written guidelines on bidding that companies can refuse to participate in bidding at their will. Under the current system, companies often bid for projects in which they are not interested because they fear that they may not be chosen again if they refuse.

Other measures contained in the package include providing information about public projects in each fiscal year, for foreign companies. They also call for drafting international rules on the notice of public works.

These measures drew a good response from a panel representing major Japanese building groups, as its chairman issued a brief statement welcoming the ministry's move.

"We'll respect the Construction Ministry for setting out on improvement," said Teruzo Yoshino, who is also chairman of leading General Contractor Shimizu Corp.

But Yoshino expressed concern about whether local governments will follow. "We would like to see all organizations that place orders implementing these improvement measures soon," he said.

Hajime Sako, chairman of the Japan Federation of Construction Contractors, echoed Yoshino's remarks. "From now on, it'll be a key whether local governments will carry out these measures," he noted.

Hungarian Finance Minister Holds Talks

LD2303214291 Budapest MTI in English 1800 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 23 (MTI)—Japanese business circles are worried mainly by unsettled ownership relations in Hungary. This is what makes them cautious when considering investments in Hungary, Mihaly Kupa, Hungarian minister of finance said, ending his talks in Tokyo. Kupa, who left Japan on Saturday, had held talks with his Japanese counterpart Ryutaro Hashimoto and also leaders of the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), the Nomura Securities trading company, the Nomura Research Institute and the Suzuki company.

Japan is ready to grant support to Hungary for purposes of environmental protection and it is looking forward to Hungarian projects in this field, Kupa told MTI. The sum that would be at Hungary's disposal for financing such projects is nearly 500 million dollars. In cooperation with the World Bank, Japan is to grant Hungary a 200-million dollar loan for economic restructuring. The talks on the loan will be completed in the near future.

Director of Suzuki, Osamu Suzuki told Kupa that the final version of the contract on the car manufacturing joint venture to be established in Esztergom (Hungary) will be signed on April 10. From Tokyo, the Hungarian minister of finance will travel to Amsterdam, and from there, in a few days, to Moscow.

Tokyo To Invite South African President To Visit

OW3003112391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1023 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Japan plans to invite South African President Frederik de Klerk for an official visit this year in a bid to step up Tokyo's involvement in the elimination of apartheid, a Foreign Ministry official said Saturday.

"We appreciate the efforts made by President de Klerk to eradicate apartheid by releasing Mr. Nelson Mandela, who is a great leader," the official said.

"We want to encourage and support the peace process under way in South Africa" by maintaining contact with various political and economic groups, said the official, who requested anonymity because the visit is still tentative.

A date is being discussed through diplomatic channels, he said.

Black nationalist leader Mandela was informed of the plan in a meeting with Japanese Consul General to South Africa Masatoshi Ohta last week, the official said.

The African National Congress' [ANC] Tokyo representative, Jerry Matsila, expressed reservations about the invitation, but said it would be useful in eradicating apartheid if Tokyo pressures Pretoria to meet black demands to return large parcels of land appropriated by whites under a 1913 law.

Whites, who make up 16 percent of the population, own 87 percent of the land in South Africa, where the apartheid system of racial segregation limits the vote to whites.

Matsila also said he hopes Japan would encourage De Klerk to set up an interim government while a postapartheid constitution is being negotiated.

Matsila expressed concern that the invitation would reduce pressure for quick reforms if Japan does not attach clear conditions for expanding relations between the two countries.

Japan restricts relations with South Africa to the consular level, although it recognizes the government in Pretoria.

The Foreign Ministry official said De Klerk's visit would not be linked with lifting of economic sanctions or upgrading diplomatic missions to embassies.

Sanctions include bans on importing iron and steel, exporting computers to apartheid-enforcing agencies, direct investment, and direct air links.

The official said Japan requires the lifting of apartheid-related legislation before these sanctions can be removed.

Japan does not plan to take a stance on the redistribution of land or establishment of an interim government because these are matters for the people of South Africa to decide, he said.

After turning down a request from Mandela for 25 million dollars in aid when he visited Tokyo last fall, the Japanese Government has moved to step up its involvement in the past few months.

Earlier this month, Japan pledged 3.2 million dollars of assistance to the U.N. High Commissioner on Refugees to help repatriate an estimated 20,000-40,000 political exiles, most of them affiliated with the ANC.

The sum is roughly equivalent to the United States' 3.25 million dollar contribution to the ANC earlier this year.

In 1987, Japan overtook the United States as South Africa's biggest trading partner, but has since dipped behind the former West Germany in total trade with South Africa.

NEC Develops High-Rise Layered LSI Circuit

OW2603113791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1107 GMT 26 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 26 KYODO—NEC Corp. on Tuesday announced development of a prototype large-scale integration (LSI) circuit with a six-layer structure, which it claims paves the way for developing a memory chip capable of storing more than four billion bits of information in 10 years or so.

An NEC researcher said two of the multilayered complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS) chips were created on a wafer slice 10 centimeters in diameter.

The previous record for a three-dimensional memory chip was four layers, the researcher said.

"Our device is not for practical use at present. But, if this technology is improved, a large-scale intergrated circuit of above four billion bits of information is possible after a decade," he said.

MITI Panel Approves Plan for Computer Use

OW2703074791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0726 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 27 KYODO—A new five-year plan to upgrade information-processing systems received approval Wednesday from an advisory panel to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

The blueprint for higher-level use of computers, which according to officials will be adopted by the ministry in April, is the fifth such plan it has produced since 1970.

The plan focuses on the growing trend for networking of information-processing equipment and the widening scope of the use of computers, MITI officials said.

It calls for greater compatibility among computers in view of the growing networking of computer systems, an active response to the rapidly spreading user base, and utilization of a wider variety of media such as audiovisual equipment.

Also recommended in the plan is the promotion of a wider use of data bases, more and better systems integration, and realization of advanced systems for knowledge processing as a tool for supporting creative intellectual activities and decision-making.

Another highlight of the plan is the promotion of standardization of the formula and specifics for so-called electronic data interchange (EDI), an on-line procedure for business transactions.

Currently, such standardization is being pursued separately in each industrial sector.

But the MITI panel said it is important that the basic features of the EDI formula should be standardized across all industrial sectors, and should also be made more in line with the international standards being developed by the United Nations.

Ministry To Promote 'Wide Use' of VSAT

OW2703085291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0825 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 27 KYODO—The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications will promote the wide use of very small aperture terminals (VSAT) for satellite communication, based on a report released Wednesday by the ministry's research committee, officials said.

The committee, headed by Waseda University Prof. Fumio Takahata, had studied ways of using VSAT systems, aiming at expanding the use of telecommunications, they said.

Among suggestions in the report were reducing VSAT prices, development of telecommunications usage, and standardization of equipment such as antennas, they said.

VSAT systems were first put to practical use in the United States, mainly for companies' in-house communications.

With a transmitting and receiving antenna some 60 centimeters in diameter installed at the top of buildings, picture and data communication can be carried out between nationwide branches or offices through satellites.

In the U.S., 16,000 terminals were in operation at the end of 1989, with the number expected to increase up to 400,000 by the year 2000.

In Japan, only 1,036 terminals were in operation by the end of last December. But the ministry expects the number will increase at the same speed as in the U.S.

NEC Launches PC Radio Telecommunications

OW2703103391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0946 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 27 KYODO—NEC Corp. and NEC Home Electronics Ltd. jointly announced Wednesday they have launched sales of a new portable personal computer (PC) that can transmit data by radio signals rather than via wires.

The NEC personal computer RC-9801 can be used effectively for radio data communication in such businesses as banking, securities, and insurance to manage transactions, inventory management and more, company officials said.

The companies expect to sell 5,000 units in the first year, they said. The RC-9801 will sell only in the metropoplitan Tokyo area and at a retail price of 548,000 yen, excluding consumption tax, they added.

The machine uses Intel Corp's 386sx microprocessor and can transmit 9,600 bits of information a second, faster than portable and cellular mobile phones which transmit 1,200 bits of information per second.

In addition, the computer runs many of the same programs which operate on NEC's PC-9800 series machines.

The 3 kilogram, A4 paper-sized notebook PC employs a built-in modem which converts the computers' signals into frequencies within radio channels and converts them back into signals at the receiving end and vice versa.

Computer users can easily communicate with their offices via a teleterminal and central switching center where data is sent back and forth between the company's host computer and the outside user.

North Korea

CPRF Vice Chairman Issues Statement on Trial

SK0104153091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508 GMT 1 Apr 91

["Chon Kum-chol, Vice-Chairman of CPRF [Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland], Decides To Go to Seoul To Plead for Delegates of South Side"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 1 (KCNA)—Chon Kum-chol, vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF], issued a statement today regarding the fact that the Seoul District Criminal

Court, at the third trial on March 25 of Cho Yong-sol, Yi Hae-hak and Cho Song-u, delegates of South Korea to the Berlin tripartite working-level talks of the Pan-Korean Alliance for National Reunification (Pomminnyon) in November last year, chose him, who had participated in the talks, as a witness at the request of the defence panel.

He said:

As far as the Berlin tripartite talks is concerned it was a significant meeting which discussed matters arising in accelerating a peaceful reunification of the country including the question of finalizing the formation of a joint organization of the nation for national reunification as had been decided at the pan-national rally held in Panmunjom and Seoul in August last year.

Cho Yong-sol, Yi Hae-hak and Cho Song-u, delegates to the tripartite talks, met and discussed all along matters of reunification with the delegates from our North side and overseas side and conducted activities in favor of the country and the nation, and nothing else.

Nevertheless, the South Korean authorities charged the patriotic figures with their participation in the Berlin tripartite working-level talks and are now keeping them behind the bars for several months and, recently brought them to the court for a trial.

This is an illegal, unjustifiable act which is really surprising.

It is only too elementary, publicly recognized right and a natural righteous deed for personages in the North, the South and overseas to meet with each other and have a dialogue for peace and reunification of the country.

At a time when not only the South Korean authorities but also men of culture and art, sportsmen, scholars and religious men have wide-range meetings with those concerned of our side and debate on reunification, there is no ground to criminalize the meeting of clergymen and democratic figures under "Chonminnyon" [National Democratic Alliance of Korea] with their fellow countrymen in the North and their discussion of the reunification question with the latter and put them on trial for this.

Therefore, I, considering the trial of delegates Cho Yong-sol, Yi Hae-hak and Cho Song-u an illegal trial at which treachery indicts patriotism and injustice judges justice without guaranteeing the fairness of law demand that the unjust trial of the patriotic figures be stopped at once and they be acquitted without delay.

As for the matter of choosing me as a witness, I had no intention at all to appear at the anti-national, anti-people trial.

But, since entirely false charges and sufferings are forced upon the patriotic figures, I decided to willingly go to Seoul and proudly testify to the innocence of delegates Cho Yong-sol, Yi Hae-hak and Cho Song-u who are suffering behind bars by making the truth clear.

Since the South Korean authorities have adopted me as a witness, they should ensure all conditions for me to give my necessary evidences.

Plans Seoul Visit To Testify

SK0204045991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Chon Kum-chol, vice-chairman of CPRF, Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, notifies South side of his intention to go to Seoul to plead for participants in Berlin tripartite talks—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 2 (KCNA)—Chon Kum-chol, vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, today sent a telephone message to the "chief justice of the supreme court" of South Korea.

Expressing regret at the fact that the delegates of the South side to the Berlin tripartite talks among the North, South and overseas were arrested on unwarrantable charges and put on trial, the message says:

At the third trial in the Seoul District Criminal Court on March 25 the defence panel recommended me as a witness and the court side formally adopted it. Hence, I take this opportunity of informing you of my intention to go to Seoul and give necessary evidences in behalf of the participants in the Berlin tripartite talks including the Rev. Cho Yong-sul at the next trial.

In this regard, I ask you to send me a message through Panmunjom on the exact date of the next fourth trial and the content of the indictments by your side's prosecution against the participants in the Berlin tripartite talks including the Rev. Cho Yong-sul ten days before the fourth trial and, at the same time, to take a necessary step so that I may meet with the defence panel at Panmunjom as quickly as possible.

I inform you in advance that some ten experts and reporters will accompany me to Seoul, and request guarantee of the personal safety of my entourage as well as appropriate conveniences.

South's Plan for Unilateral UN Entry Denounced

SK0204114191 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1150 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Commentary by station commentator Kim Kyong-pok: "Why Are They Running Amok With Maneuvers for Unilateral Entry Into the United Nations?"]

[Text] Of late, the South Korean puppets are more frantically running amok with maneuvers for entry into the United Nations.

According to a report, in a so-called informal talk at the puppet National Assembly Committee for Foreign Affairs and Reunification on 31 March, the puppet foreign minister raved that plans for the simultaneous entry of the North and the South of Korea into the United Nations will be pushed ahead but in the event that there is no response from us, specific steps will be taken for separate entry of the South within this year.

Prior to this, in an interview with a certain paper, the rascal also made similar absurd remarks. This again showed the wicked intent of the No Tae-u group to fabricate two Koreas by separately entering the United Nations at any cost. This is indeed an ominous move.

Our country has been divided into North and South for nearly half a century by outside forces against the will of the Korean people. In our country, the issue of the entry of the North and the South into the United Nations is a very serious issue directly related to national reunification, the vital demand of the nation.

Therefore, the issue of UN membership should be justly resolved in the interest of reunification and in accordance with national will.

The simultaneous or separate entry of the North and the South into the United Nations will result in legalizing the nation's division, which was caused by outside forces. This will also deepen distrust and confrontation between the North and the South and will lay grave obstacles on the path to national reunification.

Thus, we consistently called for entry into the United Nations as one Korea after the reunification. We proposed that in the event we enter the United Nations before the reunification, we should jointly enter for a single seat in the interest of reunification instead of entering separately and holding two seats. We made all sincere efforts to realize this proposal.

In fact, voices of opposing the puppet authorities' maneuvers for separate entry and demanding the joint entry of North and South are vigorously resounding from various social strata in South Korea.

This notwithstanding, the puppets are frantically maneuvering for simultaneous and separate entry into the United Nations by refusing our reunification-oriented plan. This is an intolerable antinational, antireunification crime to perpetuate the nation's division by fabricating two Koreas at any cost in the UN arena. This is also a vicious challenge to the aspirations of fellow countrymen for reunification.

The puppets talked about consideration of so-called security on the Korean peninsula and reunification even while running amok with the two Koreas plot. This is a shameless act.

If the puppets truly think of security on the Korean peninsula and reunification, they should not have put forward the issue of the UN entry from the outset. They cannot justify their maneuvers for UN entry nor conceal their separatist intention.

Since we want Korea's reunification, we absolutely will not keep step with the puppets' criminal maneuvers, whether they are the simultaneous entry or separate entry into the United Nations.

Then, why are the puppets so desperately running amok with maneuvers for entry into the United Nations at the beginning of this year? As everyone knows, our people's desire for reunification has been remarkably heightened. All fellow countrymen in the North, the South, and overseas are vigorously advancing toward the goal of reunification in the nineties in firm unity under the banner of reunification. Their march has become a fierce flow which cannot be blocked.

On the other hand, the anticommunist commotion, of which the puppets took advantage for their splittist maneuvers, is collapsing, and their maneuvers for unifying the channels of dialogue are faced with strong opposition and rejection. Such developments toward reunification in the nineties caused great anxiety to the puppets who want division, not reunification.

Therefore, the No Tae-u puppet clique, driven into a corner, is attempting to fabricate two Koreas at any cost by making Korea's division an international fait accompli in the UN arena.

However, this is a wild illusion which can never be realized. Our people, overflowing with new hope and conviction for reunification in the nineties, will resolutely smash the two Koreas plot of domestic and foreign splittists and will achieve the historic cause of national reunification without fail.

Reunification Method Said 'Urgent,' 'Important'

SK0104105791 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1024 GMT 1 Apr 91

["Confirming Method of National Reunification Is Urgent and Important Matter"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 1 (KCNA)—Confirming the method of national reunification is an urgent and important matter in accelerating the cause of national reunification in accordance with the desire and demand of the nation, stresses NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article.

It is an urgent and important question because the reunification of Korea is not a matter of the distant future but a practical task, the article says, and goes on:

It is all the more urgent because there are now different proposals for national reunification.

It is a preferential question which must be solved without fail on the road to reunification to narrow the difference in views regarding the method of reunification and establish one reunification formula that conforms to the common demands and interests of the nation.

Confirming the method of national reunification is an indispensable requirement to a successful progress of the reunification movement.

National reunification is the cause of the whole nation which cannot be achieved by the efforts of the authorities or any particular social stratum alone.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song newly defined it as a great principle in defining the method of national reunification to achieve reunification through confederation on the basis of one nation, one state, two systems and two governments and clarified that the DPRK's proposal for founding the democratic republic of Koryo shows a fair and aboveboard common way of reunification for the nation which can be the basis of national agreement.

He also proposed to convene a political consultative conference for national reunification to confirm the method of national reunification.

The South Korean authorities, however, do not sincerely accept it, taking a negative attitude to our reasonable and realistic proposal.

At the present juncture, whether to accept our proposal for convening the political consultative conference for national reunification to reach a national agreement on the method of national reunification, or not is a touchstone distinguishing between reunification and division, between patriotism and treachery.

There can be no ground for the South Korean authorities to refuse our proposal reflecting the patriotic desire for reunification.

If they really want and are interested in reunification, they should not turn their faces away from the vigorous nationwide reunification movement of the entire fellow countrymen but immediately stop the criminal acts of suppressing the demand of people of all strata for dialogue, debates on reunification, and respond to our proposal of the political consultative conference for national reunification to explore a common way of reunification of the nation.

Daily Views U.S. Plan for 'New World Order'

SK0204104491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 2 Apr 91

["U.S. Imperialists' Strategy of Strength for 'New World Order'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 2 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists intend to establish a "new world order" by overpowering the socialist forces by strategic preponderance, strangling anti-imperialist, independent countries one by one by regional war and seizing major zones of resource and military vantages of the world piece by piece, says NODONG SINMUN. Exposing the U.S. imperialists' strategy of strength to establish "a new world order", the author of the article says:

The U.S. imperialists seek to establish and maintain this order in reliance upon the very policy of strength.

Regarding strength as an all-powerful means to realize dominationism, they try to force their will and demand on other countries in reliance on it.

When they bring the strategy of "peaceful transition" to the foreground and they hang out the signboard of "disarmament" they work to build up their strength behind the scene.

Regarding the long-term strategic superiority and nuclear edge as the main point of the policy of strength to establish "a new world order", the United States schemes to make it a means of containing and overpowering the socialist forces worldwide.

Hence, the U.S. imperialists slash or decommission aging or useless weapons and equipment, while taking steps to hold a military preponderance by stepping up the development of new weapons, while forcing others to cut their armed forces as drastically as possible.

Another criminal aim sought by the U.S. imperialists in executing their plan to gain a strategic military preponderance and nuclear superiority is not only to preserve NATO but also strengthen it under the cloak of building a "collective security system," and maintain the nuclear means and conventional armed forces of the allies and permanently deploy the U.S. Navy and Airforce in various regions and waters of the world.

The completion of regional war strategy is where the U.S. imperialists are directing particular effort and putting weight in carrying out their global strategy at the moment.

They desperately resort to the policy of strength, directing the sharp edge of aggression to major zones of resource and military vantages in the world and regions where the anti-imperialist, independent countries are situated.

"Coping with contingency", "stationing of forces in forward areas overseas," "civilian mobilisation capability to comply with military demand" and the like stressed by the U.S. rulers are for meeting the demand of the regional war.

The U.S. imperialists intend to round off the main forms and methods on which they depend in the regional war strategy through the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises annually staged by them in South Korea.

Their wild ambition for world supremacy and policy of strength are the basic factors of harassing peace and security, violating countries' independence and blocking the independent development of the people.

Bangkok Opening of Embassy to Thailand Announced

SK0204125591 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Our country's embassy to Thailand was recently opened in Bangkok, the capital of this country.

With regard to this, a function was held in our country's embassy to Thailand. Thailand's related functionaries were invited to the occasion. Our country's flag was hoisted and our embassy's nameplate was posted in front of the embassy building.

Officials of Party Training Institutions Meet

SK0204050891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 2 (KCNA)—A meeting of officials of party cadre training institutions to carry through the highly important instructions of the great leader President Kim Il-song on September 12, 1990 that all the officials should uphold the leadership of our party with loyalty, more firmly united around the party, was held here Monday.

Attending the meeting were Kim Chung-nin, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and officials concerned, officials of party cadre training institutions of the central level and officials of provincial communist universities.

Discussed at the meeting were matters of consolidating and developing the unity and cohesion of the party generation after generation and successfully training more reserve cadres equipped with both loyalty and professional qualifications by bringing about a revolutionary turn in the training of party cadres.

The reporter and speakers stressed at the meeting that the teachings of President Kim Il-song on September 12 last year are an important guideline which makes it possible for our people to fight staunchly with great national pride and honour under the leadership of our party and accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche through generations to the end.

They pointed out that dear Comrade Kim Chong-il newly defined the position and mission of party cadre training institutions in keeping with the requirements of the developing revolution and has led them to bring up all the students into communist revolutionaries of chuche type who defend the party and the leader politically and ideologically with their lives, upholding them with sincerity.

They stressed the need for the officials of party cadre training institutions to resolve correctly the questions of principle arising in the work of schools and universities including education.

They also elaborated on the need to bring up students into true leading officials firmly prepared politically and theoretically and equipped with skillful organizing and working ability by decisively improving the quality of education.

A letter of pledge to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was adopted at the meeting.

Kim Il-song's Letters Handed Down as 'Honor'

SK0104110391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0954 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 1 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song sent a letter some time ago to the tractor drivers of Pak Chong-kuk's family at Yongyon County integrated farm in South Hwanghae Province. Noting that it is highly commendable and praiseworthy that a family produced 14 tractor drivers, he in his letter highly estimated and warmly thanked them for having greatly contributed to the increase of agricultural production.

Whenever our people devoted themselves to the country, President Kim Il-song sent letters or thanks to them, inspiring them to a new feat.

One of the most significant letters sent by him was a letter addressed to farmers in South Hwanghae Province after the liberation of the country.

Kim Che-won and other farmers in Chaenyong County, South Hwanghae Province, donated thousands of straw bags of rice which they harvested for the first time in their own land, to the country in December, 1946, next year of the liberation, to repay the benevolence of President Kim Il-song.

He sent them a letter of thanks, highly estimating it as a patriotic deed for the building of a new democratic Korea.

The employees of the Chongju Railway Station, a woman farmer in Kangwon Province and many other people had the honor of receiving his letters.

President Kim Il-song sent thanks and letters to many men and officers of the People's Army and people in the period of the Fatherland Liberation War (1950-1953).

He sent thanks to the soldiers of the People's Army who wiped out through the operation for the liberation of Taejon the U.S. 24th Division which boasted of being an "ever-victorious division," and he praised their heroic feats.

He sent messages of thanks and letters to the entrepreneurs, traders and industrialists in Pyongyang, Sinuiju and Hamhung who donated funds for support to the front and to railway workers who effected innovation in wartime freight transport.

Saying that man is most valuable in the world, President Kim Il- song highly estimated those people who devoted themselves to comrades and the collective.

In February 1961 he sent a letter to the medical workers of the hospital attached to the Hungnam fertilizer plant and students of the Hamhung University of Medicine who donated their blood and skin to a boy when he got third degree burns on 48 percent of his body, thus saving him from a critical condition.

He sent a letter of thanks to Kim Chong-sun, an ordinary country girl who saved seven drowning pupils, and put her up as a heroine.

When the Taechon power station, the largest in our country, and the Sunchon vinalon complex were built, and water-way project extending some 400 kilometres was completed, he sent thanks to builders and encouraged them. A large number of working people in different sectors of the national economy including power, coal and metal industries received thanks and letters sent by President Kim Il-song.

His letters and thanks are the noblest commendation and the highest honor and happiness for our people.

That is why his thanks and letters are handed down through generations as the honor of the collective and the treasure of family and always remembered as the greatest honor.

Dailies Mark Anniversary of Kim Chong-il Work

SK3003111191 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0957 GMT 30 Mar 91

["Highly Important Guideline Showing Way of Building Chuche-Orientated Literature and Art"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 30 (KCNA)—Papers here today observe the 10th anniversary of the publication of "For the Development of Chuche-Orientated Literature and Art", an immortal classical work of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The letter sent by Comrade Kim Chong-il to those attending the national meeting of active cultural workers and artists on March 31, 1981, reviewed the proud successes of our literature and art in making a radical development in the 1970s under the wise leadership of the party and comprehensively expounded the tasks and ways for developing literature and art to a higher stage to suit the new historic era in which the cause of modelling the whole of society after the chuche-idea was being vigorously pushed ahead and to our people's daily growing ideological and aesthetic demand.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il said: "All writers and artists should create more literary and artistic works which are high in ideological and artistic quality and will contribute to the revolutionary cause of chuche; they should raise literature and art in our country to a higher level."

The work above all set forth the task to resolutely defend, carry forward and develop the revolutionary tradition of literature and art and portray the leader of the working class on the basis of an analysis of the position and role of literature and art in the revolution and construction.

And it gave new answers to the ideological and aesthetic questions arising in the creation of revolutionary literature and art such as truthfully reflecting the worthy life and heroic struggle of the new people of chuche type by putting efforts on the creation of works of the theme of socialist reality and creating more works conducive to the revolutionary and class education of the people.

The work indicated an original way to develop all forms and kinds of literature and art by carrying out the party's policy of concentrating efforts on cinematic art and generalising the success gained there to all sectors of literature and art.

It clarified the question to establish chuche in literature and art, embody party spirit, working class spirit and serve-the-people spirit and foster the originality in creative work, the question to thoroughly establish the revolutionary system of creation of our own style, popularize literary and artistic activity and conduct properly the work of dissemqnating literary and artistic works and artistic activities abroad, and the questions of principle arising in elevating the political and practical qualifications of writers and artists.

The author of the NODONG SINMUN article notes that under the wise leadership of our party in the past ten years the ideological and artistic level of our literature and art has enhanced as a whole and its character as communist humanics has been perfected.

All this success clearly proves that the historic work of Comrade Kim Chong-il is indeed a powerful theoretical and pratical weapon for building chuche-oriented literature and art and that the wise leadership of the party is a basic guauantee for the development of revolutionary literature and art, says the article.

Daily Carries Article on 'Immortal' Chuche Idea

SK0104051791 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0451 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 1 (KCNA)—In his work "On the Chuche Idea" published on March 31, 1982, dear Comrade Kim Chong-il gave a comprehensive exposition of the philosophical principle, the socio-historical principles and guiding principles of the chuche idea,

In this connection, NODONG SINMUN March 31 carries an article contributed by Prof. and Dr. Kim Hwa-chong under the headline "Chuche Idea Is Revolutionary Banner for Victory of the People's Cause of Independence and Socialism".

Stating that the chuche idea is an immortal revolutionary banner which powerfully inspires the historical movement of our times toward independence, the author says:

The chuche idea is the banner of the revolutionary people's cause of independence, banner of socialism firstly because it expounds a scientific and revolutionary outlook on the world which gives a strong impetus to the revolutionary struggle of the people for independence.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has taught:

"The chuche idea gives us a genuinely revolutionary world outlook of our time, the chuche age. This constitutes a major historic contribution made by the chuche idea to the development of humanity's thinking and to the cause of liberation of mankind."

It is thanks to the chuche idea that the revolutionary peoples have become deeply conscious of their being the masters of their destinies and found a way of shaping their destinies independently and creatively.

Another reason why the chuche idea is the banner of the revolutionary people's cause of independence, banner of socialism, is that it indicates the most correct way for the popular masses to shape their destinies.

The chuche idea gave a scientific exposition of the position and role of the leader in the revolutionary struggle of the working class and, on its basis, indicated the lawfulness of the start of the revolutionary cause of the working class by the leader and its inheritance and accomplishment by his successor. This gave original answers to the fundamental questions related to the destinies of the people's cause of independence, cause of socialism.

Another reason why the chuche idea is the banner of the revolutionary people's cause of independence, banner of socialism, is that it is an idea which helps toward building the most superior, true socialism suited to the intrinsic requirements of men.

Possessed of the chuche idea, the peoples under various historical conditions and in different stages of development, filled with the conviction of victory, have become able to struggle actively for national liberation, class emancipation and build socialism and communism.

Benefits, Care Given by State, Party Described

SK0204103491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0957 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 2 (KCNA) - Seventeen years have passed since taxation was completely abolished in Korea.

The great leader President Kim Il-song has taught:

"It is the supreme principle of our party's activities to steadily improve the material and cultural well-being of the people."

The Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have directed deep attention to systematically increasing the additional benefits of the state for the working people under the uplifted banner of "We serve the people!"

In 1955, a hard time after the ceasefire, Korea decreased the amount of income tax burden for the workers and office workers 30 percent and drastically relieved handicraftsmen, employers and businessmen of the tax burden.

The rate of the agricultural tax in kind decreased 20.1 percent that year and 8.4 percent again in 1959.

The agricultural tax in kind was completely eliminated between 1964 and 1966 to improve the well-being of the farmers.

In 1970, the party and the government further improved the living standard of the people by raising the wages of workers and office workers 31.5 percent on an average.

And in 1974, they completely eliminated even small taxation which was left in the form of income tax and local autonomous tax and lowered the prices of industrial goods 30 percent on an average.

The DPRK not only eliminated taxation completely but also gives a colossal amount of state and social benefits to the working people.

This is illustrated by the social and cultural policies such as free education, free medical care, paid leave and the management of rest houses, nurseries and kindergartens at the state and social expense.

Such additional benefits are tantamount to the wages of workers and office workers.

The state bears over 15,800 won worth of the funds of upbringing and education only for one child from nursery and kindergarten to university.

The complete abolition of taxation and the state additional benefits for the working people in Korea are firmly ensured by the powerful socialist independent national economy and diversely-developed rural economy.

Editorial Stresses Economic Support Work

SK0204151091 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0011 GMT 28 Mar 91

[NODONG SINMUN 28 March editorial: "Let Us Strengthen Support Work for the National Economy Sector"]

[Text] By holding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year address in high esteem and by more vigorously accelerating the grand march movement for socialism, today, our people are faced with a heavy task that should effect a new turn in all sectors of productions and constructions.

In order to effect an upsurge in socialist economic construction this year, the second year of the nineties, the supporting work in the leading sectors of the national economy should be properly done.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: To rapidly develop the leading sectors of the national economy is an important demand in strengthening the might of the self-supporting national economy. It is also a basic key in normalizing production at higher levels at the present times.

Firmly giving priority to the leading sectors of the national economy is our party's consistent demand and it adheres to the socialist economic construction.

While rapidly developing the leading sectors of the national economy in conformity with the demand of the principles of the socialist economic development, our party makes great efforts to develop all the sectors equally. Only when we firmly give priority to the leading sectors of the national economy, taking charge of the production and transportation of raw materials, fuel, and power, and include the mining industry, electric industry, and railway transportation, can we normalize production at a higher lever in all the sectors as well as further strengthen the might of the self-supporting national economy. In socialist economic construction, we will make a loud sound of victory continuously.

In order to firmly give priority to the leading sectors, the supporting work in these fields should be properly done. In addition, the leading sectors of the national economy will be only developed with a linkage of the other sectors. Only when investments are concentrated on the mining industry, electric power industry, and railway transportation, and when facilities, materials, and fuel are provided by related fields, can production and transportation be carried out. Without such active support, we cannot expect their rapid development.

Proceeding from the importance of supporting the national economy by firmly giving priority to it, our party recently has emphatically stressed once again the need to further strengthen the supporting work for it. All sectors of the national economy should make great efforts in giving priority to the leading sectors in conformity with the party's demand and intention.

What is also important in supporting the leading sectors of the national economy is that functionaries should have a correct understanding of it, and that they, in a position befitting a master, should do the supporting work with their responsibility.

Supporting the leading sectors of the national economy is not others' business at all. All the functionaries and working people should clearly know that supporting the leading sectors of the national economy will be the work that helps them normalize production at higher levels in their sectors, that is, even in their units. Therefore, they should support the leading sectors in a position befitting a master, and should produce and supply various kinds of material, such as facilities and raw materials, with their responsibility.

In sincerely upholding the party's intention and standing on the sides of the party and the state, all functionaries and the working people should think of the leading sectors of the national economy first rather than their own sectors and units. In addition, they should actively strive to support the sectors and units that produce and supply the raw materials, fuel, power, and transportation facilities without only thinking of to whom they will be provided.

It is functionaries who are the direct organizers and executors of the supporting work. If functionaries actively take action in leading the leading sectors with a correct understanding, the masses will follow them. Bearing in mind that the excellent work of supporting the leading sectors of the national economy totally depends on functionaries of the departments of the State Administration Council, plants, and pertinent enterprises, they should highly display their responsibility in doing the supporting work. The mining industry, power electric industry, and railway transportation are very important to all sectors and units.

The work of supporting the leading sectors of the national economy should be properly a common task. Not only the units that take charge of the important role in the supporting work, but also all the sectors and units, should unanimously rise to actively conduct the material and strenuous supporting work along with ideologically and spiritually supporting the leading sectors of the national economy, such as the mining industry, electric power industry, and railway transportation.

It is important for functionaries to properly organize and coordinate the physical and strenuous supporting work. As all work has been developed in such a way, the success of the supporting work in the leading sectors of the national economy depends on how properly functionaries conduct the organizational work. If functionaries are determined to properly coordinate the supporting and organizational work, they will appropriately solve all the problems arising in giving priority to the mining industry, electric power industry, and railway transportation.

All functionaries should consider how much they can afford to further support the leading sectors of the national economy in forming plans and in organizing production. In addition, they should give priority to these fields in providing and organizing them. The sectors and units that take charge of facilities, materials, and production needed for the mining industry, electric power industry, and railway transportation are placed in an important position in the supporting work.

Functionaries of the relevant sectors and units, including the sectors of the machinery industry, metal industry, and forestry, should organize and coordinate the economic and organizational work. They should supply, at an appropriate time, the facilities and materials for which they are assigned by actively increasing production of such items as minerals, facilities, spare parts, supporting and blasting materials, and steel.

In particular, functionaries of plants and enterprises who are directly in charge of production should properly do the supporting and organizational work. It is the department functionaries of the State Administration Council's Committee who organize the supporting work for the mining industry, electric power industry, and railway transportation. The department functionaries of the State Administration Council's Committee should invest more in the leading sectors of the national economy and plan and coordinate the organizational work in order to have the facilities, materials, and funds concentrated in these fields.

In order to firmly give priority to the leading sectors of the national economy, solidarity should be more strengthened within the sectors. Fuel, power, and transportation are very important elements for production.

The leading industrial sectors will be actively advanced when materials are properly provided.

The sectors of the mining industry, electric power industry, and railway transportation should highly display the spirit of actively cooperating with each other in close relations among the mutual sectors and enterprises.

Much depends on how actively each party organization fulfills its role in doing the supporting work for the leading sectors of the national economy. Every party organization of all the sectors of the national economy should deeply inculcate and actively create among the party members and working people the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's teachings and the party's demand to firmly give priority to the leading sectors. They should, in particular, inculcate an ideology which the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has recently emphasized to vigorously support the mining industry, electric power industry, and railway transportation. We should make them display the endless sacrifice in struggling for its implementation with their firm faith, a faith that we will do whatever the party decides.

In particular, party organizations should vigorously support and help the economic leading functionaries pay preferential attention to the work of supporting the leading sectors of the national economy in order to actively organize and do it.

The important guarantee that makes it possible to gain victory in the grand battle of the year, the second year of the nineties, lies in firmly giving priority to the leading sectors of the national economy, such as the mining industry, electric power industry, and railway transportation. All party members and the working people, in further strengthening the supporting work for the leading sectors of the national economy, should make a sound of victory in all parts of the country and in socialist economic construction by effecting more innovation in the sectors of the mining industry, electric power industry, and railway transportation.

Strengthening of Work With People Urged

SK0104101391 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0015 GMT 30 Mar 91

[NODONG SINMUN 30 March editorial: "Let Us, the Party Functionaries, Strengthen the Work With the People in a Manner Befitting Our Duty"]

[Text] Today, developing reality and the heavy task assigned to us demand that the party's work—the work with the people—be further strengthened.

The party's work—the work with the people—is a basic mission and basic duty of the party functionaries. The party functionaries should concentrate their efforts on the work with the people. This is the principle that our party has consistently maintained.

Dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has noted: We should thoroughly turn the party's work into work with the people in keeping with the development of the party and the revolution. We should more firmly consolidate our party's might through the work with the people, and continue to enhance the leadership role of the party.

The party is a political organization for leadership. To correctly fulfill the party's mission and duty, the party functionaries should properly carry out the party's work.

The party's work is organizational and political work, aimed at firmly consolidating the party ranks organizationally and ideologically, and at solidly rallying the party members and the masses around the party and the leader.

The party should always adhere to the party's work—the work with the people—as a base. As the people are the main forces of the revolution and construction, the party should settle all issues concerning the party construction and its activities through organizational and political work with the people.

For this reason, the party functionaries should adhere to the political work—the work with the people—in the face of any difficulties and storms. They should thoroughly press ahead with the work with the people. This is a starting point and a basic issue in the work and actions of party functionaries.

The issue of strengthening the work with the people is a mission linked to the duty of the party functionaries. Party functionaries should carry out the party's work—the work with the people. In addition, economic functionaries should carry out economic tasks in a responsible manner. This is a basic mission assigned to them.

Party functionaries should always carry out the party's work—work with the people—in keeping with their duty and functions.

Very heavy and enormous is the task of our struggle to constantly effect upsurge in socialist construction in hearty response to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year's address and the party's intention.

In the meantime, the imperialists and reactionaries are running wild to frustrate our socialist cause. Such being the case, we should constantly put great efforts into the work to strengthen the main forces of the revolution, and vigorously press ahead with the revolution and construction.

Only when party functionaries deepen the party's work—work with the people—and firmly consolidate the single-hearted unity among the leader, the party, and the masses, can the guarantee of strengthening our invincible might be ensured.

The work system with the people is established in an orderly way in our party. What is important is that the party organizations and party functionaries should carry out the party's work with correct viewpoint and stand.

All the party organizations and party functionaries should cherish deep in their hearts the intention of the respected and beloved leader and the party center, and should concentrate their efforts on the party's work—the work with the people. Thereby, they should strengthen the party and the revolutionary ranks, and should highly display the might of the party and the revolutionary ranks.

The party organizations and party functionaries should, above all, prepare the cadres and party members to be loyal revolutionary fighters who devote everything to struggling for the party and the revolution.

The cadres are the core of the party. Party members and the masses are the revolutionary main forces which uphold the leadership of the party and the leader.

Preparing functionaries and party members to be genuine revolutionaries is a basic task to strengthen the party organizationally and ideologically.

The party organizations should design a method to train cadres and party members to be loyalists and filial sons.

The party's life is a blast furnace to train the party members in the revolutionary manner. The firm faith and strong will to uphold and follow the party and the leader can be solidly consolidated only through organizational life.

As the revolutionary missions become heavier, the party's life should be further strengthened. The party organizations and the party functionaries should strengthen the party's life among the party members. By so doing, they should train them to be genuine revolutionary fighters who follow and uphold the party and the leader in the face of any difficulties and storms.

It is particularly important to strengthen the infrastructural party organizations and the party cell in training the party members through the party's life.

The party organizations should train the party cell to be a loyal cell according to the example of the Second Cell of the Fifth Bureau of the Korean Central News Agency [KCNA]. In addition, they should enhance the sense of responsibility and role of the party cell secretaries, and raise the level of the party's life.

The party functionaries should always put efforts into the work of rallying the masses around the party in the party work—the work with the people.

The might of the party lies in its taking root among the popular masses and in achieving a single-hearted unity with the masses. Work with the masses is work that cannot be neglected during the entire period of the existence and actions of the party.

The work of indoctrinating and reforming the masses of all walks of life, and then firmly rallying them around the party and the leader is the general direction that our party has consistently maintained in work with the masses. By practically pressing ahead with the work with the masses according to the party's policy, the party organizations and the party functionaries should make the single-hearted unity between our party and our people most genuine and solid.

At present, it is important to carry out the work with intellectuals and youths in work with the masses. Only when work with intellectuals is carried out well can they unswervingly follow the single road of the revolution together with workers and peasants. In addition, they can uphold the party's cause with their ability and wisdom.

Our party gives intellectuals the great confidence to be forever companions, loyal supporters, and good advisers in the work of party building and in its actions.

It can be said that bringing up all intellectuals to be such loyal revolutionaries is the target of the work of intelligentsia. The party organizations concerned should continuously deepen the indoctrination work in acquiring the revolutionary outlook of the leader among intellectuals.

At the same time, they should press ahead with indoctrination in keeping with the specific condition of their unity, in hearty response to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's reply letter, which was sent to the party members of the Second Cell of the Fifth Bureau of KCNA and to all the members of Korean literature production.

Along with this, we should constantly concentrate great efforts on work with youths to prevent reactionary bourgeois ideology from infiltrating their ranks. In addition, we should lead them to follow the party and the leader single-heartedly, to glorify our own style of socialism, and to achieve the chuche-oriented revolutionary cause generation after generation.

In order to effect success in carrying out the work with the masses, the party organizations should pay attention to enhancing the functions and roles of the working people's organizations, including the League of Working Youth of Korea, the trade unions, and the Agricultural Workers Union.

Vigorously pressing ahead with the economic work by properly carrying out work with the people is an important task assigned to the party organizations and functionaries.

The party organizations and functionaries should highly bring into full play the creative positive attitude of the masses through explanation and inculcation. By so doing, they should brilliantly realize the party's plan of socialist construction.

To properly carry out the party's work—work with the people, the party functionaries should thoroughly embody the revolutionary work method and people-minded work style.

Work method and work style are some of the basic issues affecting the success or failure of the party's work. Keeping in mind the party's intention and the importance of the work method and work style of the party's work, all party functionaries should thoroughly embody the revolutionary work method and people-minded work style in the party's work.

The party functionaries should adhere to political work as the first work of all works. Until the masses regard the party's intention as their own and rise up for themselves, the party functionaries should steadily continue to persuade and indoctrinate them.

Along with this, in hearty response to the call, "Let us the entire party go to the masses," party functionaries should go to the masses, share weal and woe with them, and devotedly serve the masses.

To strengthen and develop our party and to effect greater success in socialist construction, it is important to firmly turn the party's work into work with the people and to realize leadership toward the revolution and construction through work with the people.

All party organizations and party functionaries should more highly display our party's might by further strengthening the party's work—the work with the people. In addition, they should vigorously lift shouts of triumph on all fronts of socialist construction.

Article on Maintaining Revolutionary Principle

SK0104090091 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0017 GMT 25 Mar 91

[NODONG SINMUN 25 March special article: "It Is Our People's Great Honor To Vigorously Advance Along the Single Revolutionary Road Under the Guidance of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song"]

[Text] Our people are now tenaciously advancing along the one and only revolutionary road of their own choice, cherishing their unwavering faith in socialism.

Our revolutionary stand to keep advancing under the revolutionary banner, the banner of socialism, is widely known to the world and it has struck a strong responsive chord in the people.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has set the brilliant example of thoroughly maintaining the revolutionary stand of the working class in the whole course of the revolutionary struggle to explore and advance the socialist cause.

Because of his resolute revolutionary principle, in addition to uncommon ideological and theoretical resourcefulness and outstanding art of leadership, the respected and beloved leader enjoys the high admiration of being called a tested leader of the socialist cause of our era and a great revolutionary.

1. Maintaining revolutionary principle in implementing the cause of the working class, the socialist cause, is key to determining its fate and future.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has noted: In order to consummate the socialist cause, it is imperative to consistently maintain the revolutionary principle of defending and embodying the independence of the popular masses.

To maintain the principle in the revolution and construction means to defend and embody the basic demands and interest of the working class and the working masses for independence.

Reflected in the revolutionary principle are the basic demands and basic guidelines for realizing independence of the popular masses. In the course of carrying out the revolutionary struggle, its environment and conditions may change, but such demands and aspirations can never change.

Maintaining the revolutionary principle is a firm guarantee for protecting and inheriting the revolutionary cause of the working class.

As taught by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the revolutionary cause of the working class explores its own future on the strength of the justness and vitality of the principle. This is, essentially, what distinguishes the cause of the working class from other social movements.

The revolutionary cause of the working class without correct principle and will to maintain it cannot advance. The only way for the revolution to triumph is to regard the principle as the only absolute truth and defend it to the end.

The revolutionary principle is the lifeline that keeps the revolutionary cause alive. In essence, the struggle to consummate the revolutionary cause is a struggle to invariably inherit the revolutionary principle. Only when the revolutionary stand of the working class is maintained from generation to generation is it possible to firmly defend the revolutionary ideology of the working class and defend the revolutionary cause against the attack of the enemies of all descriptions.

The historical experience we have acquired in the revolutionary struggle shows that the key to keeping the nature of the revolution and party unchanged, and keeping the party and revolution alive lies in maintaining the revolutionary principle.

The revolutionary principle is the yardstick by which to measure the endless loyalty of a communist to the revolutionary cause. The true communists who are deeply aware of a sense of the mission they have for the revolution, and are devoted to the revolutionary cause, do not halt even for a moment the struggle to defend their own revolutionary stand.

The revolutionary's journey of struggle begins with the struggle to defend the principles, and remains that way until the end. The spirit and faith of a communist is such that he would not abandon his principles even if he may fall along the revolutionary road. It is thanks to such strong will and faith that difficulties are overcome and the revolution advances without let-up.

The course of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song's revolutionary activity has been a glorious course of struggle of a great revolutionary and a great communist who has set the most brilliant example in maintaining the revolutionary principle.

Our revolution's forward march that started in the forest on top of Mt Paektu has been a succession of arduous, difficult struggles. Even under such difficult circumstances, the Korean revolution has advanced along an ever-victorious path thanks to the just revolutionary principle and the resolute struggle for its realization.

The great leader has resolutely adhered to the revolutionary principles of chuche he established at the dawn of the revolution throughout the whole period of the revolution and construction and has led our revolution to an unending upswing by assuming it as the basic guidance.

It was thanks to the respected and beloved leader's unwavering, unequaled revolutionary principle that our fatherland and people have been saved from a life-or-death crisis and our revolution has been kept alive until now, the nineties.

Placing the interest of the working class, the basic interest of the revolution, ahead of everything else at all times during the whole course of the revolution and construction, the great leader has subordinated everything else to this interest.

The working class is the class that has embodied independence at the highest level that puts up a resolute struggle to realize the independent demand of the popular masses more than anybody else.

The working class's interest and the interest of the revolution are one and the same.

Therefore, the loyalty and firm character of the principle of the revolution are expressed most intensively in the struggle to realize the interests of the working class. When we do not deviate from the position of the working class even one moment at any time and place but thoroughly embody the interests of that class, we can firmly defend the independence of the popular masses.

Our revolution has brilliantly realized the revolutionary mission of many stages which must be fulfilled to realize the independence of the popular masses. This historical course is characterized by the continuous strengthening of the leadership role of the working class, and by the process in which enormous social changes have been realized, conforming with the aspirations of the working class.

As early as the time of the democratic revolution, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song prepared for the transition to the socialist society—the society for which the working class aspires—and during the time of socialist revolution, he decisively enhanced the leadership role of the working class and embodied its class aspirations most brilliantly.

After the establishment of the socialist system, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song saw to it that the struggle for revolutionizing and working-classizing the entire society is comprehensively intensified, because he took a firm stand to fulfill the historical mission and aspirations of the working class to build a classless society. In our country today when the revolution and construction have advanced to a higher stage, all the problems arising in socialist construction are solved in conformity with the working class-oriented position and the principles of socialism under the wise leadership of the party and the leader.

Socialism is a society which is developed on principles which are fundamentally different from capitalism. Therefore, it is the firm and consistent position of the party and the leader that without socialist principles and methods, no problem can be solved. Because this fundamental position is embodied, the principles of the party-oriented leadership is implemented in all fields of the revolution and construction, and all the problems arising in socialist construction are realized in such a way as to mobilize the inexhaustible creativity of the popular masses, the main force of the revolution.

The great leader's revolutionary leadership, which solves all problems in the fundamental interest of the revolution and in the interest of the working class irrespective of the interests at hand, is the source that enables the superiority of our socialism to be exalted continuously. Because of this resolute revolutionary position, the history of our revolutionary struggle will shine even more as a proud history of creating socialist examples in the future as well.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has also conducted the uncompromising struggle continuously against the antirevolutionary maneuvers of all sorts of reactionaries, including the imperialists, throughout the entire period of the revolution and construction. As our party has expressed, the character of the revolution of the working class in the socialist cause is expressed, most importantly, in how it deals with the imperialists' antirevolutionary maneuvers.

The imperialists' antirevolutionary maneuvers to obstruct, demolish, and obliterate the working-class revolutionary cause are persistent and vicious. If we give up the principle before the offensive of the imperialists and class enemies, we could lose the valuable gains of the revolution. We should respond to the antirevolutionary offensive with the revolutionary offensive and counter the enemy's appeasement and deception with high revolution-mindedness, so that we can firmly defend the socialist cause. Because of the special characteristics of the development of history, our revolution has continuously run against the most vicious and shameless challenge of the imperialists and all sorts of class enemies.

However, the great leader was at no time perturbed but defeated the enemies by the strategy of countering head-on all their maneuvers and strategies, and opened the road of new upswing in the revolution. His strategy is the chuche strategy of driving the enemies of the revolution into the defensive and turning misfortune into fortune. If it had not been for the firm revolutionary position of the great leader, the banner of the revolution and the banner of socialism would not have been adhered to so firmly in our country in the face of the intensive offensive of the imperialists.

Today, the U.S. imperialists, mentioning a crisis of socialism, are engaged in open maneuvers for demolishing socialism. Sharply seeing through the reactionary nature of the peaceful transition strategy pursued by the imperialists at present, our party leads the socialist cause to continuous victory by putting forth the strategy and policy to crush it.

The respected and beloved leader issued many masterpieces, such as the historical masterpiece "Let us more highly exalt the superiority of the socialism of our country," and put forth the resplendent road to advance the socialist cause. This is his immortal achievement that gave great faith to the people who are aspiring for socialism and justice. The greatness of our party and our revolution lie in the fact that even today when a fierce battle is being fought between socialism and capitalism, we resolutely and invariably maintain the revolutionary position of anti-imperialism for independence.

The course of the revolutionary activities of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song is also embroidered with the struggle in which the consistency of the lines and policies have been firmly maintained. The victorious advance of the revolutionary cause depends on how we maintain and fulfill the revolutionary line that has been put forward, in the stern historical whirlpool.

It is here that the principle and compromise separate. To firmly ensure consistency and inheritance of the lines and policies is the manifestation of the strong character of principle to adhere to the endless loyalty to the revolution and the banner of the revolution.

In the course of the progress of our revolution, there have been many historical turning points that required new changes in the revolution and construction. However, there was no tilting in our revolution as far as the lines are concerned, nor were there any vicissitudes in them, because the revolutionary lines put forth by the party and the leader were thoroughly consistent, and there was the inheritance-oriented leadership to fulfill them. Herein—where we consistently carry on the revolution and construction without deviating at all from the road of the revolution once chosen and from the revolution once put forward—lies the unequalled character of the revolution of the respected and beloved leader.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has put forward firmly maintaining the lines of strategic significance in the revolution and construction as the most important work connected with the future and fate of our revolution, and concentrated much of his efforts on it. This was the course of the struggle to overcome the foreign elements of various colors contradicting our revolutionary lines, and it was the days of his energetic leadership to prompt the entire party membership and all the people to an all-people march to implement the chuche revolutionary line. With the revolutionary leadership of the party and the leader, the strategic lines, such as the three revolutions line—ideological, technological, and cultural—the line of building the self-reliant national economy, the chongsan-ri spirit, the chongsan-ri method, and the taean work system, have been firmly maintained as strategic lines to be upheld from generation to generation, continuously exerting greater vitality.

Our course of building socialism—in which we have vigorously advanced following only the road directed by the chuche revolutionary line despite the change in the objective environment and the change of the generations of the revolution—clearly shows what the most thorough character of principle of the revolution is like. Thus the course of the great leader's revolutionary activities is embroidered with the arduous struggle and unequalled devotion to defend and adhere to the revolutionary position of the working class. History does not know any other great leader who has led the revolution and construction to a continuous upswing, steadfastly adhering to the ideals of the working class and the popular masses without shrinking back from the revolutionary principle during the long period of the revolutionary activities that lasted more than 60 years.

2. The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song is the great leader who has the outstanding leadership features that can firmly adhere to and embody the revolutionary principle under any circumstances.

It is by no means easy to continuously adhere to the principle of the revolution on the road of revolution where all sorts of obstacles and trials exist. Only the great revolutionary who has leadership traits as a tested statesman can lead the revolution to the end to the road of truth and principle. People cannot repress their admiration over [illegible] fact that our revolution has consistently defended the revolutionary principle while surmounting multilayered trials and find the primary factor to this from the leader's [yondoja] will and his leadership art.

In fact, that the chuche principle, the socialist principle, has been continuously adhered to in our revolution has not been caused by objective circumstances and conditions. In other words, because we have held in high esteem the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who has the outstanding leadership traits as a great revolutionary and as a great statesman, at the front of our party and people, the Korean revolution has been able to become the great revolution that has most thoroughly embodied the revolutionary stand of the working class.

The firm faith and indomitable will that truth and principle win victory without fail—this is precisely the outstanding leadership traits of the respected and beloved leader who has brilliantly defended the banner of the revolution, the banner of socialism.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The truth of history that mankind should advance along the road of socialism without fail cannot change. The popular masses, the main force of history, should not separate from the basic principle that they should oppose imperialism and advance toward socialism. That principle is victorious without fail, is the truth that has been proven by history.

The history of the protracted revolutionary struggle of the working class is the course on which it has constantly advanced along the road of socialism on the track of history. We can say that it is the history in which the revolutionary principle has been victorious. The revolutionary principle reflects the truth of history, and, therefore, its victory is inevitable. Although there may be obstacles and momentary retreat on the course of advance, victory always stands at the side of the people defending the truth of the revolution. This has been proven by history.

The revolutionary principles that have been adhered to in our revolution are based on the profound principle of the chuche idea, and contain serious lessons and rich experiences obtained from the revolutionary struggle. Because of this, the victory of the revolutionary principles has always been guaranteed.

The great leader has experienced numerous difficulties and trials on the course of his protracted revolutionary struggle. However, he has led the revolution and construction with the firm faith in certain victory that the cause of socialism victoriously advances along the road pointed to by the chuche idea. It was because of such firm faith that the respected and beloved leader embodied to the end the chuche-oriented revolutionary line, including the armed struggle line, even in the most arduous days of the anti-Japanese struggle during which there was neither logistical support from the state nor support from a regular army, and that he firmly adhered to the principle of self-reliance in the period of the postwar rehabilitation construction during which everything was destroyed. Today, too, the great leader is wisely leading our people to the road of anti-imperialist independence, the road of socialism, with the firm faith in the invincibility and superiority of the cause of socialism.

The great leader's theory that principle is ever victorious eternally encourages our people in the faith and optimism of the future of the revolution.

Currently, the voice of faith, saying, "Go if you wish, you cowards, we will defend the red flag to the end," is being further raised among our party members and workers. There is nothing in this world that has the strength to break this firm and strong faith which was deeply planted in our people by the party and the leader in the long revolutionary course.

An extraordinary leadership trait which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song possesses is to brilliantly embody the revolutionary principle of the working class with his creative wisdom, in accordance with the changed and developing situation and the trends of the times.

The environment and condition for the revolutionary struggle, which is to realize the popular masses' independent stand and attitude, is endlessly changing and developing. Therefore, in the revolutionary struggle it is very important to accomplish the theory and method of brilliantly embodying it, in accordance with today's reality, while at the same time thoroughly adhering to the fundamental demand of the working popular masses, including the working class.

Adhering to the principle in no way means that the changed environment must be ignored, and that one must cling to the existing theory and method. The character of principle does not have ties with dogmatism. This must be supported internally by high creativity. Only by doing so can the victory in the principle be guaranteed and its infinite vitality highly displayed.

The respected and beloved leader not only possesses a strong will to adhere to the end to the revolutionary principle of the working class, even under the changed environment, but he also possesses a brilliant ideological and theoretical wisdom, embodying the revolutionary position under new and different historical conditions.

Because of this, the line and policies which the respected and beloved leader presents become an immortal banner which most brilliantly realizes the fundamental demand and the demand of the era of the working popular masses. This kind of example can be known well through the famous theory that communism consists of the people's regime plus the three revolutions.

The theory newly elucidates strategic goals in building communism which is in compliance with the demand of today when the independence, creativity, and awareness of the popular masses who are the subject of the revolution, are greatly enhanced and when the socialist construction is at a new and high stage. This theory also newly elucidates how to build communism.

The reason the great leader presented this theory is that this is a living example of how to adhere and creatively embody the essence of the revolutionary theory of the working class in accordance with the demand of the new era.

All the strategic and tactical methods, including the method to display great vitality and might in today's revolution and construction by modeling the whole society after the chuche idea; the method to guarantee succession in the party construction and of constructing the party with an outlook; and the method of making the whole world independent, are all brilliant results of the great leader's extraordinary wisdom and ideological and theoretical activities, which adhere to the essence of the revolutionary ideology of the working class while creatively developing them.

Since we have this kind of great ideological and theoretical guidance, our party and the people can, under whatever circumstance, move forward firmly toward socialism and communism by highly upholding the banner of the revolution.

Having firm faith in the popular masses, and mobilizing their infinite strength to boldly overcome various barriers, form the extraordinary art of leadership which the great leader has embodied in the struggle to adhere to the revolutionary principle.

The history of our revolutionary struggle, which firmly adhered to the socialist revolutionary banner, was a history in which was displayed to the maximum the revolutionary enthusiasm and creativity of the popular masses who were firmly united around the party and the leader.

This was so in the course of the Chollima march which carried out the historic task of the socialist industrialization in the short period of only 14 years, and in the course of the speed battle march which loudly echoed the cannon's roar of socialist construction.

If our people did not have the firm determination that they cannot go back even one step in the revolutionary road, even if they have to tighten their belts, and if our people did not have the high revolutionary spirit to continuously carry out the revolution to the end, generation after generation according to the party, it would not have been possible for our people to overcome the historic difficulties in the revolution and construction.

This historic march of heroic epic proportions, in which all the people are consistently moving forward while highly upholding the banner of the revolution, is indeed created through the great leader's refined leadership.

Whenever there was a difficult ordeal before the revolution and whenever there was a new and enormous task in the socialist construction, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who has absolute faith towards the popular masses, found that the fundamental key to solving these problems was in our people's high revolutionary enthusiasm and creativity.

He said that our people were good people who had a strong revolutionary spirit, and that our people were a sound-minded people who liked to carry out the revolution and to carry out the struggle. He always went among the people and derived his strength from them. He had heart-to-heart talks with the people and discussed with them how to create a breakthrough to move forward, and he personally spurred them on to new feats. This kind of extraordinary leadership by the respected and beloved leader brought about a miracle which surprised the world.

As is shown through the proud history and reality of our revolution, the power of endlessly fulfilling the principle in the revolutionary struggle is due to the firm blood-tied relations between the leader and the people and through the invincible single-intentioned unity.

Indeed, the single-intentioned unity overcomes all kinds of difficulties and creates something out of nothing. This is also an all-purpose weapon which can eternally display the superiority of socialism.

In our country, the single-intentioned unity of the party and the popular masses, which is the most precious in the revolutionary struggle, was realized at the highest level, and this is being endlessly consolidated and developed generation after generation.

The center of our revolutionary unity is firm, and the loyalty and filial piety of our party members and workers to follow the leader is further intensified with the passing of time.

As long as all the people firmly unite around the party Central Committee led by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song so that there is the invincible single-intentioned unity of thinking and acting with the same mind, our socialist cause will vigorously move even more toward the one road that teaches the true revolution.

3. Since the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song leads the revolution and construction by having a firm revolutionary principle, today an eternally bright future unfolds before our party, nation, our society, and people.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Our revolutionary cause is just and the road which our people must move toward is brilliant.

Our people, who are struggling for the just cause under the leadership of the party, will always be victorious. In a socialist society, the future of the party, nation, and the people are dependent upon the wisdom of the respected and beloved leader.

The respected and beloved leader's leadership, which consists of a resolute revolutionary position, made the might of our party, nation, and our people strong beyond comparison.

Without the great leader's leadership, our party cannot contemplate becoming an iron-willed party which overcomes any difficulties so that the revolutionary cause can be guided to the end; our country cannot contemplate becoming a revolutionary weapon which unchangeably adheres to the nation's sovereign rights and unchangeably adheres to the characteristics of a socialist society; and cannot contemplate our people displaying the honor of a revolutionary people who uphold the party's cause by having an invincible will.

Since the respected and beloved leader adhered to a firm revolutionary principle in the revolution and construction, it was possible most of all for our party and people to have the invincible power to firmly defend the national dignity and sovereign rights generation after generation.

The fundamental core of the revolutionary principle which the great leader adheres to is the principle of chuche and the principle of independence.

The respected and beloved leader's principled stand of firmly rejecting any schemes to trample underfoot the dignity and sovereign rights of the nation, and of carrying out the revolution and construction in our own way, has always been firm and invariable. Because such a revolutionary stand by the respected and beloved leader has been the guideline for our party's activity and building our state, our national sovereign rights have been firmly safeguarded and defended.

Positively coping with the flow of history, our party and the government of the Republic today not only have solved all problems arising in the revolution and construction according to their independent opinions, and based on their independent judgment and faith, but have also accepted experiences of other countries in conformity with the demands of our revolution. Our people are not only the dignified people who have infinitely demonstrated their national honor in all fields with the strong national spirit of "Our nation is the best," but have also displayed the pride of being the mighty and powerful nation that carries out economic construction and cultural construction in their own way.

Only when the leader of a party and a state leads the revolution along the one and only road of independence with the resolute and firm revolutionary principle, can the chuche stand of that nation be guaranteed forever. This is the precious truth which has been proven precisely by the reality of our country today. It is difficult to gain national sovereignty. But, it is more difficult to continuously defend it. However, our people have never worried over the solidness of our national independence and sovereignty. Because there is the great leader's lofty prestige in the hearts of our party members and the working people and also because there are the party and the government which have firmly adhered to the revolutionary principle, our people are filled with the unwavering confidence and will that they can dignifiedly exercise their sovereign rights in the international arena. This is why our people are struggling with all their strength to resolutely safeguard and defend the lofty dignity and prestige of the party and the leader, regarding the revered name of the respected and beloved leader as a symbol of the dignity and greatness of our nation.

As the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has firmly adhered to the character of the revolutionary principle, our people have been able to create a most superior new life which accords with the inherent demands of socialism. Our people are the revolutionary people who have the heavy mission of extensively enhancing the superiority of socialism for these times and for history. The expectation toward our people who are vigorously advancing toward socialism and communism, holding aloft the banner of the revolution, is very great. Because of the existence of the leadership of the party and the leader, the leadership which is characterized by infinite loyalty to the cause of socialism, our people have been able to outstandingly perform this mission, and, thus, they have become the dignified people who greatly contribute to history and the times.

The noble ideal of socialism—which the masses of working people, including the working class, have so ardently desired, and for which numerous communists have fought, shedding blood—is being unfolded as a reality in our country today. The basic demands of socialism, the aspirations and demands of the working class, have been thoroughly embodied in our country today not only in the political life, a most important life for the people, but also in cultural and material lives.

The equal and sound material life in which all people live equally well off without the gap between the rich and the poor; the affluent cultural life in which everyone becomes the creator and enjoys the culture and the life, sufficiently meeting various cultural and moral demands; and the independent political life in which people infinitely add luster to the noble sociopolitical life, enjoying genuine freedom and rights as the master of the state and the society—this is precisely our people's rewarding life which was created by the leadership of the great leader, who has brilliantly embodied the socialist principle.

Whenever our people think of our most superior socialist life which enjoys the unanimous admiration from people of the world, they can be more firmly convinced that it was too righteous that they have thoroughly embodied the socialist principle under the leadership of the party and the leader while surmounting all sorts of difficulties and trials. The honor and dignity of our people who have created the brilliant model of being infinitely loyal to the cause of socialism through their resolute struggle is incomparable.

As the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has firmly adhered to the character of the revolutionary principle our people have been able to have firm assets with which they can inherit and consummate the revolutionary cause of chuche to the end. The revolution is the struggle for the future. The character of the party and the leader of the working class finds expression more clearly in planning the brilliant future of the revolution and uncompromisingly struggling to expedite it.

It is the consistent stand of the great leader's leadership to get all problems which arise in the revolution and construction to thoroughly contribute to providing the guarantee for the long-range plan of the revolution and for the eternal prosperity of the country and the nation. Stressing that we should provide our next generation with a greater future although we undergo hardships today, the great leader has built one by one the assets for the eternal prosperity of the era of the Workers Party.

Because of the existence of this leadership of the great leader our people today have been able to have the precious assets of the revolution which other people are envious of, that is to say, the outstanding political and economic assets which firmly guarantee the final victory of the revolution. The strongest main force of the revolution has been built in our country today, and, accordingly, the material foundation on which our nation can prosper generation after generation has been provided on this land.

In particular, the party, which is the guiding force of the revolution, has been strengthened and developed into the victorious and invincible party which can adhere to the revolutionary principle under any circumstances. Today, our party is vigorously leading the march of the nineties to brilliantly implement the plan for the grand socialist and communist construction set forth by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

Today's march led by our party becomes the struggle to inherit the most correct revolutionary principles which were firmly adhered to in previous years and generations. The complete victory of socialism, which is an important milestone of our revolution, as well as national reunification, which is the utmost, long-cherished desire of our nation, will be brilliantly achieved precisely through this rewarding struggle.

Indeed, the leadership of the great party and the great leader, the leadership which is characterized by infinite loyalty to the revolutionary cause, is the source which has caused us to infinitely demonstrate the honor and dignity of chuche Korea and to effect on this land the epochal changes and miracles unprecedented in history. Due to this great leadership, the lifeline of the Korean revolution has been still firmly maintained today and a brilliant future for the final consummation of the chuche cause has been guaranteed.

All party members and working people should have the firm faith that the honor and dignity of the people carrying out the revolution, rest with the glorious struggle of adhering to the socialist principle and, thus, should more staunchly struggle to implement all of our revolution's strategic lines and principles set forth by the party and the leader. The cause of our people, who are vigorously advancing forward, resolutely defending the banner of the revolution, under the leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il- song, is invincible.

KCNA Review of 2 Apr Pyongyang Press

SK0204062791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0512 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang April 2 (KCNA)—Papers here today report that immortal classical works of the great leader President Kim Il-song were studied and disseminated in different countries.

Under the title "President Kim Il-song Is the Great Leader With Flawless and Tested Leadership Ability" NODONG SINMUN conveys world public voices revering him as the great leader of the revolution and construction.

A lecture was given in Lisbon under the cosponsorship of the Portuguese central committee for the study of Kimilsungism, the Portugal-Korea Friendship Association and the Portuguese Committee To Support the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea on the occasion of April 15, the birthday of President Kim Il-song, says the press.

Conveyed in NODONG SINMUN are words of South Korean people highly praising dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as the successor to the revolutionary cause of chuche, the great genius of thought and theory.

A MINJU CHOSON article says the May 10 general works has been solidly built up as a reliable mining equipment production centre of the country under the wise guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

NODONG SINMUN editorially calls for exalting the socialism of our own style by thoroughly applying the party's policy and MINJU CHOSON for further strengthening the guidance of the administrative and economic work by power organs.

NODONG SINMUN introduces the Mangyongdae revolutionary museum.

Econews of the press includes reports about the increase of the iron and steel production at the Kim Chaek iron and steel complex and tree-planting through a mass movement across the country.

Given in NODONG SINMUN are accounts of a meeting of officials of party cadres training centres and a national meeting of the Korean Democratic Women's Union activists in silkworm raising.

Pyongyang is being beautifully decorated on the threshold of the 9th April Spring Friendship Art Festival, reports the daily.

It informs the readers of the release of the Korean documentary film "Local Industrial Factories Pay Off".

Papers report that the Guinean president called at the Kim Il-song institute of agricultural science in Guinea and Korea unified table tennis team which will take part in the 41st World Table Tennis Championships started its training in Nagaoka, Japan.

Appearing in NODONG SINMUN is a report that foreign party and state leaders warmly supported the DPRK's new proposal for reunification.

Carried in the press is a statement issued by Chon Kum-chol, vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, regarding the fact that the Seoul District Criminal Court, at the third trial of South Korean delegates to the Berlin tripartite working-level talks of the pan-Korean alliance for national reunification (Pomminnyon), adopted him as a witness at the request of the defence panel.

The press conveys voices at home and abroad denouncing the "Team Spirit-91" joint manoeuvres and reports about the South Korean puppets' moves to reinforce the air force.

Dailies come out with commentaries hitting out at the South Korean authorities' scheme for "unilateral U.N. membership".

Printed in NODONG SINMUN is an article dealing with the struggle of student Im Chong-sok, former chairman of the South Korean National Council of Student Representatives, at the trial.

Another article of the paper exposes the reactionary nature of the "open agricultural policy" in South Korea and its consequences.

MINJU CHOSON comments on the remarks of the chief of the U.S. Centre for Strategic and International Studies carping on us with the fictitious "threat from the North".

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that Japanese figures launched a brisk street propaganda demanding an early normalization of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations.

It is reported in the paper that Li Xiannian, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, stated only socialism could save China, the Pakistani prime minister said his government was trying to solve the unemployment problem and the U.N. Secretary General called for support to the South African people's struggle.

"U.S. imperialists' strategy of strength for 'new world order'" is the title of a NODONG SINMUN article.

MINJU CHOSON deals with the rapidly increasing crimes in the United States.

South Korea

DPRK's Kim Chong-il Reportedly To Visit China

SK0204002891 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 2300 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Japan's MAINICHI SHIMBUN reported today that North Korea's Kim Chong-il will secretly visit China around 3 April. Correspondent Yi Chun-pal reports on this from Tokyo:

[Begin Yi recording] Diplomatic sources in Beijing have said that Kim Chong-il will secretly visit Beijing around 3 April and will stay there for approximately three days. This is intended to show China that he has become Kim Il-song's successor not only in internal affairs but also in diplomacy, thereby winning support from China. Based upon this analysis, diplomatic sources predict this means that Kim Chong-il's successor system will be operational in earnest regarding internal affairs and diplomacy, and that this will greatly affect the reunification of the Korean peninsula and negotiations on diplomatic relations between Japan and North Korea. The sources also say that the news of Kim Chong-il's visit to China, which comes at a time when the international situation in Northeast Asia is rapidly changing—as shown in the establishment of diplomatic relations between the ROK and the Soviet Union—is the first sign indicating North Korea will thrust Kim into the international arena, thereby prompting new diplomatic moves. The sources also say that during Kim Chong-il's visit to China, North Korea will try to determine the Soviet Union's true intention regarding the ROK's application for unilateral UN admission and will see how China will respond to this application, thus formulating new diplomatic strategies. The sources also predict that, in connection with the troubled negotiations on diplomatic relations between Japan and North Korea, North Korea will ask the Chinese Government to assist it by pressuring Japanese Foreign Minister Nakayama, who will visit China on 5 April.

After he emerged as Kim Il-song's successor, Kim Cong-il visited China in early 1980 at the invitation of deceased General Secretary Hu Yaobang and held talks with Deng Xiaoping and other Chinese leaders. However, at that time the visit was not disclosed for several months. [end recording]

Rumored Visit Appears 'Certain'

SK0204105191 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 2 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] An official at the Ministry of National Unification Board said on 2 April that judging from all available information, Kim Chong-il's rumored visit to China on 3 April appears to be certain.

He said: The most probable reason that Kim Chong-il has chosen this time to visit China seems to be that he wanted to make China realize that he is the successor to his father, not only in day-to- day state affairs, but also in diplomatic affairs. He wants to do this before Kim Il-song's birthday next year on 15 April, on which day his succession to his father is expected to be made official, and he wants to obtain approval from the Chinese leaders.

No Tae-u 'May Visit' President Bush in Jun

SK0204010391 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] President No Tae-u may visit the United States in June for a summit with President George Bush to discuss post-Gulf War bilateral questions and the international situations, a government source said yesterday.

The source, declining to be identified, said that consultations are under way between the governments of the two countries about No's Washington visit.

The government originally had planned to arrange No's U.S. trip in September in case the United Nations General Assembly agrees on Seoul's membership in the world body.

During the projected trip in September, No was to give a speech accepting the U.N. decision to allow Seoul's entry in the General Assembly and meet Bush.

However, the source noted that Bush's schedule in September appears to be "flexible" and it is not certain the U.N. membership question will be resolved this year.

"So, the government is considering a plan to advance the President's trip to June," he said.

Recalling the Bush's plan to visit Seoul in March was foiled due to the Gulf War, the diplomatic official stressed, "Since there is no chance Bush will visit either Seoul or Tokyo during the first half of the year, it is necessary for No to go to Washington to discuss with the U.S. president overall questions pending between the two countries."

"It is necessary for No to explain to Bush the background of Seoul's efforts to improve relations with the Soviet Union and China," he observed.

If No's U.S. visit in June is arranged, the leaders of the two countries will be able to exchange views in depth about Korea-U.S. cooperative relations.

Seoul on Allowing CPRF Official To Testify

SK0204085291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0828 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—A top North Korean official has asked the South Korean chief justice to guarantee his safety during a trip to Seoul to give evidence in a criminal trial.

Chon Kum-chol, vice chairman of the Committee for Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF], Tuesday asked Chief Justice Kim Tok-chu to guarantee his safety and let him bring 10 reporters and aides with him.

Judge Na Chae-kyu of the Seoul Criminal District Court called Chon as a defense witness in a hearing Feb. 25 for three dissidents charged with holding an unapproved meeting with North Koreans in Berlin last November.

Chon issued a statement Monday saying he was ready to come to Seoul to testify in the trial.

According to NAEWOE PRESS, Seoul's official watcher of communist affairs, Chon asked in a telephone message to Kim to be notified of the date of the next hearing, to be given a copy of the indictment through the truce village of Panmunjom 10 days before the hearing and to be allowed to meet with the defense attorneys at Panmunjom.

The South Korean Government says it will discuss everything with the Council for Inter-Korean Exchange Promotion after consulting the judiciary, but has a negative attitude toward letting Chon take the stand.

There is a great fear of North Korea exploiting the trial for propaganda or political purposes, said a government official who asked not to be identified.

DPRK's SPA Chairman Proposes 8 Apr Contact

SK0204004191 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the North Korean Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], sent to Pak Chun-kyu, house speaker of the National Assembly, a telephone message notifying him that the two liaison officials will be sent to the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom at 1000 on 8 April, in order to negotiate the question of procedures for the passing through Panmunjom of our delegation which will attend the 85th Inter-Parliamentary Union to be held in Pyongyang, as well as the question of communications.

Prior to this, our side had proposed to the North to hold a contact of liaison officials on 3 April.

Our side will accept the North Korean side's revised proposal.

Red Cross President Proposes North-South Talks

SK0204063591 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0300 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Kim Sang-hyop, president of the Korean Red Cross Society, today sent a telephone notice to Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the Central Committee of North Korean Red Cross Society, and proposed the holding of the 11th North-South Red Cross talks, which are scheduled to be held in Pyongyang, early next month.

In the telephone notice, President Kim Sang-hyop said that since the North-South talks came to a deadlock due to issues irrelevant to humanitarianism, the pain of 10 million separated families is increasing with each passing day. He then proposed that the two sides seek a breakthrough in resolving the issue of separated families before 12 August, which marks the 20th anniversary of our proposal for the movement to find separated families, by resuming full-dress Red Cross talks early next month.

The two sides held eight rounds of contacts between working-level officials from September 1989 to November 1990 in an effort to convene the 11th Red Cross talks. However, since the North Korean side put forward the performance of a revolutionary opera as a precondition for the talks, the two sides failed to agree on the date for the talks.

The North-South Red Cross talks, which were held in Pyongyang for the first time in 1972, had lasted until the 10th talks in Seoul in 1985. However, North Korea suspended the 11th talks in January 1986 on the pretext of the Team Spirit exercise. Thus, talks have not been held even on one occasion since that time.

* Agreement on Unified Sports Teams Welcomed

912C0161A Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 17 Feb 91 p 2

[Editorial: "The Significance of Creating a Unified Sports Team Between South and North Korea: Let Us Participate in the Openness, Reconciliation, and Coexistence"]

[Text] With spring around the corner, there is a little progress in the deadlocked sports conference between South and North Korea, as if the wall between the two countries is beginning to open gradually. For the first time in the 46 years since the nation was divided, an occasion has been established for unified teams between South and North to participate in international sports games. Both sides signed a complete agreement on sending a unified team to the 41st International Table Tennis Match scheduled to be held in Chiba, Japan in April, and to the sixth Youth Soccer League in Portugal in June.

The agreement has been made for the first time since the nation's division. Since the first sports meeting in 1957, there have been 29 meetings so far, including an attempt to form a unified team for the Tokyo Olympics in 1963. The agreement on five detailed plans, including future plans, team composition, and training methods, is welcomed and highly evaluated.

Although the agreement is on sports, the implication is not limited to sports only. The significance of the sports agreement lies in the fact that it becomes a precedent for the two nations to be able to reach an agreement on even more difficult tasks such as cultural, economic, and political issues, if they participate in meetings with determination.

It is known that both sides made concessions in reaching the agreement, which is an unusual movement. Each side might have had its own problems in the past. It has become a general trend that ordinary people from both sides do not have much expectations from such meetings, since they have been disappointed at previous meetings, which ended up with mutual provocations, rather than serious attempts to reach an agreement.

Being accustomed to meetings with no agreement, the success of the current sports meeting encouraged the people very much, and provided them with confidence that in the future, they can develop methods to resolve even more difficult issues.

It is especially pleasing to hear that South Korea made a greater concession during the meeting, by accommodating much of the North's proposals.

One thing should be emphasized on this occasion. Since we have multiple windows for South-North talks in various government ministries dealing with sports, economy, culture, education, communications, transportation, and politics, each ministry should more actively and responsibly open its doors of exchange between the two nations.

If, on the other hand, each ministry tries to maintain the bureaucracy of business-as-usual by escaping responsibilities, and tries to give up opportunities and efforts to increase exchanges, various opportunities for reunification and the people's dream will be suffocated. Therefore, each ministry should prepare mid- and long-range plans to open its doors for mutual exchange between the two nations.

One way of approaching reconciliation and reunification between the South and the North is to resolve major political and military issues first, and then to let the less important issues be resolved automatically. Another approach, would be to resolve small but solvable issues first, such as the sports meeting for a unified team, among numerous tasks that need be resolved, and to approach the solution of bigger problems, based on the accomplishment and experience.

The working-level committees should not allow any discrepancy in the process of implementing the agreed agenda. The working-level committees for table tennis and soccer that are scheduled to meet on 21 and 22 February respectively should keep this in mind.

It is true that the people of South and North Korea have felt betrayed by the results of many meetings, which always seemed promising in the beginning but ended up empty-handed.

Therefore, while carefully analyzing the gains and losses from this successful sports meeting, people cannot be completely free from worrying that the agreed agenda would be carried out without any discrepancy.

The world will watch the whole Korean people, when the members of the unified team demonstrate their skills and sportsmanship in a foreign playground. Furthermore, it will be an important occasion for the Korean people to regain their pride and confidence. The government authorities of the South and the North should not hesitate in realizing the earnest wishes and dreams of the people of both nations.

Starting is half done. A big step has been taken. The door of exchange between the South and the North should be widened, following the example of the outcome of the current successful sports meeting. The two nations should deeply acknowledge the fact that we are in a crucial moment in history when both nations should try to establish a firm ground without being left behind the world trend of openness, reconciliation, and coexistence.

Four People Permitted To Contact North Koreans

SK0204103591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0821 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—Four South Koreans were given government permission Tuesday to contact North Koreans, officials at the National Unification Board said.

Sin Chong-mok, president of the Korea Travel Trading Inc., is allowed to invite Han Pyong-un, head of Pyongyang's Korea International Tourist Bureau, to the third overseas travel fair in Seoul in June.

The Rev. Yi Chae-suk, chairman of the Association of Religions in Korea, may contact religious leaders to discuss a joint expedition to climb Mt. Paektu.

Cho Chung-sun, president of the Korea soft tennis [as received] association, and Professor Yi Yong-chol of Inha University make up the four.

Of 140 applications this year, the government has approved 112 and disallowed seven. The other 21 are pending. Of those contacts approved, only 28 actually took place.

Also in January-March, South Korea bought 29 million U.S. dollars of North Korean goods in 51 deals up 9 million dollars from 1990 and almost double its sales to the North of 10 million dollars on four occasions.

DPRK's Food Shortage 'Crisis' Discussed

SK0204105891 Seoul WOLGAN CHOSON in Korean Mar 91 pp 323-330

[Article by O Tae-chin: "North Korea's Crisis, the Rice Has Run Out"]

[Text] There are various statistics such as economic indicators which are expedient yardsticks for measuring a state's economy or standard of living. However, North Korea is an exception to this rule, as a considerable time has passed since such figures were made public.

Indeed, there are no statistics on the state of North Korea's food provisions which has been continually worsening since the 1970's. The last publicly announced figures were in 1982, when the rate of industrial expansion was released and in 1984, when grain production figures were made public. Nevertheless, according to intermittent announcements, their national income was 2400 dollars in 1986 and 2530 dollars in 1988.

North Korea's annual grain production figure announced in 1984 was 10 million tons. In the "ten economic targets" unofficially announced in 1989, annual grain production was fixed at the 10 million-ton level. In spite of a question of reliability, according to these figures production was sufficient to feed a population of 20 million.

The testimony of defectors to South Korea as well as visitors to North Korea describes quite a different situation. Nevertheless, North Korea's attitude has been consistent with their statistics. At the time of the 1984 Seoul floods, North Korea sent down 50,000 som (around 7200 tons) of rice. Last year, when the collection and donation of the "Rice of Love" collected by the Korean Christian community was reported in the South Korean media after the fact, North Korea suddenly retorted, "we will send it right back." Even when South Korean representatives at the high-level talks held last year obliquely showed their intention to provide rice assistance, Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk confidently replied, "We have absolute no worries about rice." One can only view this as false bravado stemming from the great value North Korea places on both face and self-respect vis-a-vis South Korea.

However, there are a series of indications that the food crisis in North Korea has reached such proportions that they must abandon their efforts to save face. Toward the middle of January 1991, North Korea indicated it wished to buy 100,000 tons of Korean rice through a broker in Singapore at 100 dollars per ton, far from the international market price (385 dollars per ton based on the standard of medium-grade California rice). North Korea said that in place of currency, they would pay with primary products such as pollack.

Request for Tongil-Brand Rice Seedlings, Cultivation Methods

The National Unification Board [NUB] revealed that from December 1990 to the end of January 1991, North Korea inquired into the possible secret import of South Korean rice on four different occasions totalling 435,000 tons. They have been requesting seedlings as well as information on cultivation methods for Tongil-brand rice.

The official visit by North Korean Premier Yon Hyong-muk to China in November 1990 for economic diplomacy essentially was an attempt to find a breakthrough for North Korea's food problems. According to the "agreement on economic cooperation" concluded at the time, the 150 million dollars China agreed to provide North Korea over a five-year time span consists of funds to be used for the purchase of foodstuffs. During his journey to Southeast Asia as well, Yon Hyong-muk indicated North Korea's intentions to import 1 million tons of rice and 500,000 tons of tapioca (a type of potato) for use as livestock feed from Thailand within the next two to three years. He also discussed the issue of importing rice from Indonesia and Malaysia.

If that is the case, just how much food does North Korea need to purchase? According to estimates of the Soviet Union's Socialist Economic Research Institute subordinate to the Academy of Science: "In 1989, North Korea's food imports totalled 1 million tons. However, due to a poor harvest in 1990, the North must import between 2.2 and 2.5 million tons in the future." The institute also noted, "There is great concern that a famine will occur in North Korea this spring. Although it is expected that North Korea will request food assistance from international organizations, food support from the Soviet Union will be impossible due to its internal situation."

Each year, the NUB presents a report providing an overall analysis of North Korea's economy for the previous year. Grain production is estimated by considering North Korea's cultivated acreage, agricultural productivity, crop distribution, and climate conditions.

In the report on 1989 which came out at the end of 1990, the NUB estimated that total grain production for the year amounted to 5.5 million tons (based on clean grain), including 2.16 million tons of rice, 2.7 tons of corn, and the remainder in other grains. Compared to their 5.2-million ton production for 1988, this figure represents a 5.2-percent increase. The NUB estimates that the minimal amount of production necessary for one year is 6.5 million tons, to include seed, feed, processing-use grain, and replenishment of damaged stocks. Subsequently, there was a 1.3-million ton deficiency in 1988 and a 1-million ton deficiency in the harvest of 1989.

Moreover, due to the low temperatures during the prime developmental months of April and May, the localized torrential downpours of July through September, and the chronic shortage of fertilizer, North Korea's difficult agricultural problems are known to have been aggravated. According to unofficial estimates by authorities, grain output for 1990 totalled 4.8 million tons (1.93 million tons of rice), a 12-percent reduction from 1989.

Soldiers Even Raid Local Farms

What really provides a true sense of how serious North Korea's food crisis is, however, is the testimony of those who have lived or visited North Korea themselves.

One Korean-American who recently visited North Korea said that he saw a placard there which read "Movement To Eat Two Meals a Day." A well-informed Japanese source who visited North Korea in January 1991 was also reported in a Japanese daily newspaper as having said, "There are frequent incidents of famished soldiers raiding collective farms located near their barracks, breaking into storage facilities and pillaging grain as well as catching and eating livestock such as cows, pigs, and chickens. I heard of 16 such incidents during my stay in North Korea." This same person also stated, "This year, North Korea is importing a substantial amount of flour from one Middle East country and from Southeast Asia."

One Korean-American from Washington D.C. who visited North Korea in early 1989 even made the unbelievable statement, "Chicken farms have been closing down due to a shortage of livestock feed which resulted from the fact that people have been forced to eat feed." A Chinese-Korean who visited Wonsan during the same time period stated, "More and more people are eating only one meal per day due to delays in food distribution. It is common for people to boil and eat uncrushed wheat as well."

Chong Hyon (age 25), a former student of the Tonechek [as published] Technical College, who defected to South Korea in August 1990, described the scene in Pyongyang in 1987, the begining of four consecutive years of bad crops in North Korea.

"When I visited Pyongyang during my school vacation in 1987, I felt that life had become more difficult there than when I departed for the Soviet Union in 1985. One day, after talking about various topics at the Grand People's Study Hall, I took a lunchbox and went to the house of my grandmother on my mother's side who lived with my aunt's family. The family members were eating a lunch composed of "flour rice." This consisted of mixed-grain porridge made with a one-to-seven ratio of rice to wheat. This flour rice was a reddish- brown color, since flour was sprinkled on the rice and wheat mixture.

"Due to her meritorious achievements in design work on such projects as the Chuche Ideology Tower and the Arch of Triumph as a designer at the Pyongyang City Design Center, my mother had received several orders of merit from Kim Il-song. My deceased father also was a deputy of the Pyongyang City People's Committee as senior colonel (equivalent to South Korea's colonel) in the People's Guard. Subsequently, I was able to enjoy a high standard of living as a member of the privileged class.

"On the day we went to my grandmother's for lunch, my lunchbox was filled with such items as polished rice, chicken, and pork. When I shared my lunch with my three- and five-year-old nephews, they picked at their food while cautiously stealing glances at the rest of the family. Unable to bear such a sight, I walked outside and cried as I stood smoking a cigarette, unable to eat."

Kim Chi-il (age 26) defected together with Chong after graduating from the dynamic mathematics department of Harikopv [as published] University in the Soviet Union. He visited Pyongyang during school vacation in 1987.

"When North Korean students studying in the Soviet Union visit Pyongyang during school vacation, they take large amounts of foodstuffs with them. In the past, it was difficult to pass through customs since the regulations were so strict. However, the regulations were changed at some time and, now there is no control on the amount of food you can bring in. When I visited in June 1987 I took 10 kilograms of rice with me.

"In 1989, North Korean ambassador to Senegal Hwang Chol-su stopped in the Soviet Union on his way back to Pyongyang after being recalled. He asked me to purchase some foodstuffs for him, having known me back in Pyongyang. It was not an easy task, but I purchased an extensive list of goods which included 50kg of rice, 60kg of sugar, 30 cans of pork at 500g per can, 30 cans of beef at 500g per can, 100 bars of face soap, 60 boxes of detergent, 100 bottles of liver medication from India, and penicillin. Even though his father had been a partisan together with Kim Il-song and he himself had served as an ambassador, Ambassador Hwang was reduced to asking such a humiliating favor of me."

Han Song-ho (age 22), who defected alone in June 1990 while studying in the Russian Literature of Moscow University, described his experience when he visited Pyongyang during summer vacation in 1988.

"The first feeling I had upon landing at Sunan Airport was that the people were extremely emaciated. As I passed through customs I handed three packs of Soviet cigarettes under the desk. The official simply asked 'You don't have anything, do you?' as he sent me through. The phrase I heard most during my stay in Pyongyang was the slang 'ko-ira,' which means give me a bribe."

False Propaganda of "Rice Exporting Country" Continues

Im Chong-hui worked as a nurse at the Kaesong Pediatric Hospital before crossing to South Korea in 1989. She saw the 1984 grains which were sent by the North to Seoul's flood victims as the turning point for the acceleration of North Korea's food crisis. Judging from her own experiences, there are absolutely no irregularities in the accounts of North Koreans' food crisis being reported in the South Korean press recently. She described a few of her recollections.

"In the spring of 1987, whenever there was one of the twice-monthly ration distributions, the citizens of Kaesong would skip work and line up in front of the Kaesong distribution center. This was because the amount of rations you received depended on your place in line—if you did not get near the front of the line, you could not receive your allocation. The authorities, perplexed and embarrassed by the situation, stated 'We will be embarrassed if a foreigner were to see this,' and semi-forcefully broke up the lines. As the spring of 1987 passed on, however, this scene was repeated.

"In 1988, those people unable to make the uncrushed wheat provided by the Soviet Union into flour had to resign themselves to simply eating the uncrushed wheat, as it was, for meals. Since the wheat was dark and hard, it had to be soaked in water for several days before being prepared. Even so, it was difficult to digest. The people realized that this uncrushed wheat was intended to be used as horse feed, with only half of the grain being wheat. Thus it was called 'pantachak-mil' [half-threshed wheat] or 'panmil' [half-wheat].

"Occasionally when there was absolutely no glutinous rice available, Southeast Asian rice, with its finely rolling grains, was also distributed.

"In spite of this, the authorities incredibly flaunted their slogan of 'Rice Exporting Country.' They claimed that North Korea exports rice to uncivilized countries such as Africa. They also stated that countries like China and the Soviet Union had requested of North Korea, 'Since you are a rice-exporting nation, send us some rice.' Thinking about it now, the logic they espoused saying 'Since we are a rice exporting nation, we must export rice no matter how difficult it may be' is ridiculous. The people, having no critical consciousness however, just blindly accepted such logic."

"In order to alleviate a drug shortage, each department within a hospital has established an herb garden four to five pyong wide. With six departments at our hospital, we had gardens amounting to a total of 30 pyong. In spite of this, rather than planting herbs for medicine, the hospital employees cultivated grains such as beans and corn which were much more urgently needed, dividing the harvest among themselves to eat. Every spring and fall we were forced to wander around the mountains in search of herbs to compensate for the use of the garden to raise food. The standard ration distribution ratio is a five to five mix of rice to miscellaneous cereals and grains. This changed to a ratio of two to eight. Returning to my home of Manpo in Chagang Province in 1988, I saw that the ratio had dropped even further to one to nine. I then realized that the food shortage was even more severe in the countryside than in the city."

Chong Yong-chol (age 21) worked in the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ] near the Cholwon area in a DMZ civil patrol unit before defecting in 1989. He stated that from the time he started his military service in 1987, he frequently heard of incidents of famished soldiers raiding nearby farms for food.

Price of One Kilogram of Beef Equals 20 Days' Pay

"Because both of my parents were party members, I was sent to a DMZ civil patrol unit to work. It is difficult to be assigned to such a unit where your personal background is such a major factor in getting in. The civil patrol units received much better rations than regular infantry units, and as such were the envy of everyone else. Ration regulations stated that each day a soldier received 750 grams of pure rice. Every ten days, a platoon (33 members) would receive 30kg of pork as well, and individuals would receive seven packs of cigarettes. In fact, however, rations were so small that people would curse 'this damned explosive rice,' since there was so little of it that one would always be hungry, even immediately after eating. In the beginning, we were not certain whether this was because rations were in short supply, or because rations were being taken by a higher unit. For a two-month period the pork supply was also below one-third. Nevertheless, after I was transferred to a rear-area reserve unit, the situation was even worse."

"Side dishes were raised by our own hands in a garden within the compound. All year long, our side dishes were the 'three condiment brothers.' We used that term since the only side dishes we had were made of cabbages, Chinese cabbages, and radishes preserved in salt with no seasoning. Unit members farmed corn on a 15000-pyong garden which was located within the company headquarters. One day when we went out to cultivate in March 1988, for some reason we received an unusually large amount of corn noodles [noodles made out of corn vice flour] for lunch. Having been given so much all at once, I quickly ate six bowls of the food. Everyone there ate as much as I had, and there were some who ate even more. Even though standing guard was the most important mission which one has in a civil patrol unit, everyone routinely attempted to sleep during guard duty to forget their hunger."

In August 1991, SPORTS CHOSON carried a series consisting of memoirs of a North Korean citizen. The greater part of the contents concerned eating. The author of the memoirs, returned to North Korea after studying in Moscow and wrote about the life of everyday people in cities in outlying areas as well as Pyongyang. The memoirs were sent to Seoul via some unspecified route. Some of the key points follow.

"Corn must be purchased at an opportune time—if it isn't, then the price will rise. There is no household in North Korea which survives on its distributed rations alone. When corn is inexpensive, it is seven won per kilogram. During autumn, everyone tries to scrape together whatever money they can to buy even just one additional kilogram of corn. Nonglutinous (polished) rice is expensive. It is 14 won per kilogram. Therefore, you are considered a wealthy person if you buy nonglutinous rice. Rationed rice is always insufficient. Although they are supposed to provide 700 grams, they only give you 450, so you can't help but be hungry. If you try to live only on rationed rice, you must constantly eat gruel. Nonglutinous rice only accounts for 20 percent of rice rations, and there were even times when that figure has dropped to 10 percent. Even the best lunch boxes at work are filled with bright yellow corn—it is no longer considered something to be ashamed of. You are very lucky to be able to take ample amounts of even yellow rice."

"Beef is very expensive. The black market price is 30 won per kilogram. One month's salary for a worker is nearly 45 won, so should one take that, eat one meal of beef, and starve until next month? They say someone, having heard that people die if they eat 30 won-worth of beef, tried some beef just to see whether he would really die. I will never forget this person, sadly smiling as he did not die from eating the beef."

"Having gathered together to watch television, a news story came out that South Korean farmers had protested in opposition to the government's policy of importing U.S. beef. That the farmers were protesting imports meant that there was plenty of beef in South Korea. 'Geez, give some of that beef to us up here in North Korea!' Everyone laughed at such a foolish comment. The youth of South Korea are waging a struggle, saying that they will not buy beef: when are we going to establish some type of policy to buy some beef?"

The Forty-Year-Old Slogan of "Live on Rice and Meat Soup"

"It has been a considerable amount of time since I have eaten sugar. Everything was all right up until even 1974. At that time, you could go and buy beef for five chon [cents], and there were candies and finger pastries, etc. There was one store with a white-tiled floor I used to go stand in that sold sweetmeats, cooking oil, soybean paste, and soy sauce. I used to go there all the time, clinging to my mother's skirt. That store is gone now, a Comrade Kim Il-song Revolutionary History Research Room now in its place.

"In front of the research room there are continuous lines of students. If I were to go and tell these students, 'A long time ago, a store stood here where you could buy as much candy and confections as you wished,' what would they say? Surely they would stare at me in disbelief."

The extreme difficulty North Korea is facing as far as food is concerned was vividly evident during the "Report Conference on the 45th Anniversary of the Founding of the Agricultural Workers Union" held in the People's Palace of Culture on 30 January 1991. In the revolutionary report, Pak Su-tong, chairman of the Agricultural Workers Union Committee, emphasized, "We must infallibly reach our grain production objectives with revolutionary spirit. Let us gloriously realize the intentions of the great leader and comrade leader, who intend to fulfill the desires of our people to live on polished rice and meat soup while wearing silk clothes in a tile-roofed house."

"Live on polished rice and meat soup," was first recorded in official documents and reports and made a slogan in the post-Korean war restoration period. Forty years later, that slogan still continues today. The recent meeting of the Agricultural Workers Union, was unique by the use of the term "polished rice" [huin-ssal pap] in place of the expression "boiled rice" [i-pap].

It appears as though this is a result of the fact that the post-war generation uses and thus more readily understands the phrase "polished rice." North Korea has emphasized the importance of increased food production, including rice, by making the expressions "Rice is communism," and "Well-fed, well-bred" as slogans in relation to their food shortage. Recently, however, the expression "The most urgent issue we are confronting in socialist economic construction is solving the problem of eating" is increasingly being used in place of the indirect, circuitous slogans listed above.

In reality, the food problem is exacerbating the feeling of a gap between the rich and poor and is becoming one of the major reasons for agitation within North Korea's socialist system. North Korean citizens must constantly be concerned how insufficient portions of rations are to be distributed. Such a demand for food is also leading to the inevitable development of private markets to meet this demand. A representative example of this is the farmers market.

Private markets called market places [changmadang] have existed in North Korea's outer regions and rural area, even though unofficial, since the later half of the 1960's. At these markets, goods such as excess produce from collective farms, vegetables grown individually by people in small gardens near their house, and livestock raised as a family business as well as necessities such as various grains, shoes, soap, and sewing needles change hands in spot exchanges.

Farmers Only Attentive to Their Private Gardens

North Korean authorities had unofficially allowed the existence of such markets, recognizing their benefits in helping the lives of members of collective farms, inspiring within them a motivation to work, and providing a stopgap solution to a shortage of daily necessities. From 1984, they were designated as farmers markets [nongmin sijang] and officially recognized. Within most districts (the equivalent of our wards), including Pyongyang, the authorities have established one temporary building covered only with a roof. An administrative office is erected and rental fees are collected.

Although transactions involving major grains, including rice, textiles, clothing, liquor, and cigarettes are prohibited, in reality black market transactions in these prohibited items are more brisk than authorized transactions. Subsequently, while the transaction price of approved goods is over ten times the normal government price, food stuffs are sold at over two hundred times their normal price. One kilogram of rice is 15 to 25 won while corn is nine to 12 won. The lives of those who have money and those who do not cannot help but be different.

The planned economies of totalitarian governments ignore individual profit incentives and originality. There comes a point where these economies reach their limit, when only numerical results can be raised in stead of substantive increases in output. The stagnation in North Korea's agricultural sector, as in industrial fields, reached this limit a long time ago. The collective agriculture of the so-called Chongsanri method is a model of this. They do not even recognize the privatization of farm instruments such as sickles or hoes, let alone land. It is a system whereby wage shares are allocated according to the quantity and quality of labor within the cooperative factory.

A good counterexample to the decline in the farmers willingness to produce according to the system is the "home garden." Japanese-Korean Yi U-hong, who was an instructor at Wonsan Agricultural College, depicted the devoted effort which North Korean farmers paid to their home garden in his book entitled "The Dark Republic" [Odum-ui konghwa-kuk]:

"Farmers depend on vegetables raised in the gardens near their home and the few livestock they raise there. Legally, gardens of 30 to 50 pyong per family and the breeding of three pigs, a few chickens, rabbits, and ducks are allowed."

"Several types of vegetables are raised in these 20- to 30-pyong home gardens surrounding farm houses where usually two families live. Melons, Chinese cabbage or Western cabbage, radishes, onions, red peppers, garlic, and carrots could be seen."

"Compared to the wide fields of collective farms or government-administered farms, home gardens have a mere fraction of the acreage. However, it is readily apparent the degree to which farmers pay unlimited attention to cultivating their small gardens. The thick, rampant weeds which dominate the collective farms where these farmers work from early in the morning until late at night were absent from the farmers' home gardens."

"Weeds were neatly removed both within and surrounding the garden. As I looked at these neatly cultivated gardens, I was occasionally moved to tears thinking about the sober expressions of farmers as they eagerly tended to their gardens after a hard day's work at the collective farm or on their days off."

What exacerbates the diminishing agricultural productivity and the storm and flood damage North Korea has suffered is the large-scale creation of "terraced fields" [talak-pat] following the so-called "chuche farming method." These fields were developed by tilling land at the bases of mountains in order to increase the geographically limited cultivatable acreage while increasing the production of corn, the major crop in North Korea. However, by causing the devastation of mountain forests, soil erosion, and raising the level of riverbeds, these terraced fields have actually worsened the storm and flood damage even for flatland crops.

"Causes of Deterioration of the Terraced Fields"

In spite of this, North Korea has made agricultural products an important export item. North Korea has supported its external economy with compensation trade, where goods are bartered back and forth. With the inferior quality of goods which it can export, North Korea could not help but use agricultural goods, a primary product, as a means of trade.

North Korea exports agricultural goods primarily to the Soviet Union. These include corn, rice, and vegetables. In 1987 alone, over half of North Korea's corn harvest was used to barter with the Soviet Union. The whole reason for deciding to raise corn, otherwise not suited for cultivation in North Korea, at the same levels as rice, and even making feedstuff corn as its main product, was so that they could export the corn to the Soviet Union.

Nevertheless, North Korean citizens themselves are so bad off that they cannot even eat as much of the same corn which is exported to the Soviet Union as livestock feed as they would like.

In order to be properly understood, North Korea's food shortage must be viewed at a level beyond the simple logic of production being unable to satisfy demand. In North Korea, the authorities maximize the use of the food rationing system as a control mechanism to suppress demand while deliberately not importing foods which are in short supply.

North Korea believes that as long as they maintain the food rationing system, which provides them their strongest means of control over the citizens, then they can solve the food shortage which results from the law of supply and demand by simply adjusting the amount of the rations.

However, it now appears as though the control which the North Koreans believe the ration system provides them can no longer be effective. That is the reason that North Korea is actively sounding out the possibility of importing foodstuffs from several countries, including South Korea.

Bessmertnykh on KAL Downing Information Release

SK3003025291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0233 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 (YONHAP)—Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh said Friday that Moscow would release any additional information it acquired on the downing of a South Korean jetliner by a Soviet fighter plane over the island of Sakhalin in 1983.

Bessmertnykh's remarks came in talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, who asked for the return of the remains of Japanese passengers on KAL [Korean Airlines] 007, along with their belongings and pertinent information.

He said the incident, in which 269 people on board perished, was a tragedy but he had nothing to add at present.

Visiting Mongolian Foreign Minister Interviewed

SK0204041691 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 31 Mar 91 P 2

[Interview with visiting Mongolian Foreign Affairs Minister Tserenpiliyn Gombosuren by reporter Chong Kwang-chol at Hotel Silla in Seoul on 30 March —first two paragraphs are introductory]

[Text] Mongolia, which has maintained close relations of cooperation with North Korea, for the first time on 30 March expressed support for the ROK's plan for entry into the United Nations. In an interview at the Hotel Silla on 30 March before leaving the ROK after an official visit of three nights and four days, Mongolian Foreign Affairs Minister Tserenpiliyn Gombosuren said: The ROK and Mongolia, when they established official diplomatic relations last year, agreed that the two sides should have all rights and functions as members of the international society. This agreement also applies to the issue of the ROK's entry into the United Nations.

Apparently because the people of the two countries are much alike in appearance, Minister Gombosuren disclosed an intimate feeling toward the ROK saying, "I feel as if I had the interview in my country."

[Reporter] What is the status of the reforms in Mongolia?

[Gombosuren] We had free and democratic elections last year. Since then, we have continuously enforced progressive democracy. We are changing our economic system to the market economic system. In our foreign policy, we are seeking the development of relations with all countries under the principle of equality, transcending ideologies.

[Reporter] In which sector do you hope for economic coooperation with the ROK?

[Gombosuren] Mongolia has undergone many difficulties economically in the process of its reforms. In an effort to solve this, we are establishing the foundation for economic cooperation with foreign countries, including the establishment of special economic zones. In particular, we pin great hope on economic cooperation with the ROK. To put it concretely, we want the construction of power plants under joint venture.

[Reporter] Is there any possibility for cooperation other than the economic sector?

[Gombosuren] The people of the two countries have had close relations from ancient times. Therefore, there are many common points in the fields of culture and histroy. Based on this, the two countries will expand the relations of cooperation in all sectors.

[Reporter] What is your opinion on the relations between the ROK and China?

[Gombosuren] The establishment of diplomatic relations between the ROK and China is a matter which should be solved by the two countries. The Mongolian Government wants the two countries to establish official diplomatic relations as early as possible.

[Reporter] What effect do you think your cooperation with the ROK will have on your cooperation with North Korea?

[Gombosuren] I think that the economic cooperation with the ROK will not have any bad effect on our existing relations with North Korea.

Swiss Official Holds Talks With Trade Minister

SK0204110691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0843 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—South Korean Trade and Industry Minister Yi Pong-so and Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, a Swiss federal councilor, Tuesday discussed ways to improve bilateral economic cooperation.

The two nations will seek specific ways to expand economic cooperation into the area of small- and medium-sized companies and high technology, on which the Swiss economy is based, Yi said.

Here until Thursday, the former Swiss president will also meet with Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu and Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok.

Delamuraz was president in 1989, when President No Tae-u visited Switzerland. He arrived here Tuesday as a member of a 20-man Swiss economic delegation.

Assembly Session Sought To Discuss Gulf Bill

SK3003005791 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 30 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] will soon submit to the National Assembly for approval a supplementary budget bill featuring the $280 million of additional aid Korea had promised to the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Gulf, party spokesman Pak Hui-tae said yesterday.

The party, with over two-thirds of the 299 parliamentary seats, plans to call the Assembly into session in mid-April to act on a number of important bills.

On March 20, the Foreign Ministry said that of the additional $280 million, $250 million will go to the United States.

The contribution to Washington breaks down to $100 million in cash, $100 million in transport service and $50 million in materials to the U.S. forces in Korea.

The balance, $30 million, will go to Britain in cash for its war efforts in the Gulf.

A ministry official said that British Amb. David J. Wright visited Vice Foreign Minister Yu Chong-ha at Yu's office Thursday and expressed thanks for the cash contribution to his country.

South Korea had also pledged $115 million in loans and grants to front-line states and contributed a 154-member military medical team and five C-130 transport planes to the Gulf effort.

The ruling party also plans to submit to the Assembly an amendment to the law governing political funds, party spokesman Pak told reporters. The giant ruling party wants to increase the state subsidies for political parties by 50 percent to meet the opposition demand for "fair" distribution of political funds, and to minimize corruption in political circles.

Under the DLP plan, each eligible voter would contribute 600 won a year, instead of the present 400 won to parties with parliamentary seats.

Kim Yong-sam Accord With Kim Tae-chung Viewed

SK0204032991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0231 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sam, No. 2 in the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), is in hot water with the heads of rival factions for reaching an agreement Monday with opposition leader Kim Tae-chung, head of the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD).

Among the charges being leveled at Kim, DLP executive chairman, are that the former opposition leader has reverted to his old ways and is not behaving in a manner appropriate to his recent incarnation as leader of the ruling party.

He and Kim Tae-chung issued a five-point agreement in which they said they were against a parliamentary form of government and interference in politics by "officials in charge of public security."

DLP floor leader Kim Yun-hwan, a senior member of a faction led by President No Tae-u, said he had a problem with Kim's calling government moves to eradicate corruption and irregularities "political interference."

As a leader of the ruling party, Kim Yong-sam was duty bound to deny this, he claimed.

Kim Yun-hwan also charged that it was wrong for the two Kims to agree to have key party negotiators set the date for the second stage of local elections, saying that only the government had the right to determine the election date.

Kim Yong-hwan, chief DLP policy-maker, said he was unable to understand why PPD head Kim and DLP chairman Kim had used the expression "political interference of public security officials" in their agreement.

Kim Yong-hwan, who belongs to the faction led by former Prime Minister Kim Chong-pil, noted that the ruling party had repeatedly said it would not seek a parliamentary government and he could not understand why Kim Yong-sam had revived the issue.

The DLP was created early last year by merging No's ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) with two opposition parties, led by Kim Yong-sam and by Kim Chong-pil. Late last year, Kim Yong-sam foiled an attempt to introduce a parliamentary form of government.

Meanwhile, members of Kim Yong-sam's faction defended their boss. Politics had recently been dominated by former prosecutors and the agreement would be a turning point to open an era of "politics by politicians," they said.

Kim's faction fears that No's faction will steal control of the party if the present political situation continues and the chance for Kim to win the DLP presidential nomination could be wiped out.

Kim recently told his aides that he would try to get the nominating convention held in September. The election is not due until late 1992.

No Urges Officials To Become 'Corruption-Free'

SK2903095591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0812 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 29 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u told government officials Friday to become role models for a corruption-free society and find a systematic way to prevent irregularities in officialdom.

"(Government leaders) must not neglect strict discipline and (must) find ways to fully exercise their internal investigative authority," No told his cabinet ministers.

The instructions [which] were issued in a morning meeting, called for ad hoc inspection teams run by the prime minister's office and prosecution to sweep away government, corporate and social corruption.

"Tolerance is needed for minor wrongdoings of the past, but the government must prepare revolutionary measures against irregularities of the future," No said.

He also called for more restraint by corporations in lobbying to prevent unethical practices, and said government inspections should be directed at correcting such practices and at boosting the country's industrial competitiveness.

No specifically ordered close cooperation to improve working conditions for government workers and raise their wages to 90 percent of those of state-run agency employees by 1992.

Allowances and operational funds should also be updated, with further attention to personnel management and awards, No added.

Anticorruption Statistics for 1990 Released

SK3103023591 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 31 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] As a result of a stringent anticorruption drive by the presidential office, the number of civil servants punished last year shot up, said the premier's office yesterday.

According to the office, 4,863 government officials were disciplined in 1990, up 13.8 percent from a year earlier.

Of those disciplined, the office said, 741 were sacked, 256 suspended and the remaining 3,866 were subjected to such punitive steps as pay cuts and warnings.

The office said 601 officials were found guilty of taking bribes mostly from businesses, up 19 percent from 198, while 119, up 24 percent, had embezzled public funds.

Those guilty of negligence of duty jumped 41.5 percent from 282 to 399.

The remaining 3,744 public servants, received relatively mild disciplinary actions for mishandling government business and other irregularities, up 10.4 percent from a year earlier.

Meanwhile, inspectors from 43 ministries and government agencies met yesterday to discuss ways of effectively carrying out the government's anticorruption campaign.

The move followed Friday's meeting of cabinet ministers in charge of justice and inspection which was presided over by President No Tae-u. The ministers vowed to establish strict discipline and eliminate corruption in officialdom.

The inspectors agreed that the establishment of discipline among public officials, particularly those in charge of justice and inspection, is in order for the effective conduct of the anticorruption campaign, the premier's office said.

They said their inspection will focus on the deep-rooted practice of bribing public servants.

Reservists Begin Night Patrols of Towns, Cities

SK0204010491 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] Members of the Homeland Defense Reserve Forces began yesterday anti-crime night patrols in towns and cities across the country.

The crime-prevention patrols, carried out for six hours from 11 p.m. through 5 a.m., will continue until the end of November.

The Defense ministry said yesterday that reservists would patrol "dong" areas in groups of five to ten in cooperation with the police.

According to the ministry's directives, reservists will apprehend criminals and turn them over to the police.

But they are not empowered to stop, check and search citizens during the night patrol duty.

The directives also stipulate that, in case the reserve force members perpetrate offenses on the patrol duty, they will be legally punished under the status of civilians.

The reservists will patrol with batons and whistles, wearing the reserve force uniforms and armbands.

The ministry said that the reservists would be posted on the night patrol duties for 18 hours a year.

No Urged To Issue Declaration on Environment

SK0204064291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0555 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—The Presidential Commission on the 21st Century Tuesday urged President No Tae-u to issue a declaration to awaken the public to the need for environmental protection.

The commission also called on the president to appoint a special adviser on scientific and technological affairs, and said sewage disposal and waste treatment should be handed over to private companies by the government.

It said the state-run National Institute of Environmental Research should be privatized and expanded so it can study environment problems independently and comprehensively.

The committee also called for inter-Korean prospecting on the continental shelf, joint study of the ecology of the demilitarized zone, and setting joint industrial standards.

After being briefed on the report, No said the government would strongly seek to improve its environment watch system, the education of environment experts and support for environmental research institutes. He said the government would continue to expand investment in science and technology.

Trade Deficit for First Quarter Reported

SK0104115191 Seoul YONHAP in English 1125 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 1 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea's first-quarter trade deficit was 4.45 billion U.S. dollars, with exports up 10.2 percent over a year earlier at 15.3 billion dollars and imports up 25.1 percent at 19.7 billion dollars on a customs clearance basis, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Monday.

The amount is more than half the government's 12-month target of 7 billion dollars for 1991.

Export growth was attributed to improved competitiveness due to a weak Korean won, stable oil prices, and an economic recovery in major markets, but imports outpaced exports because of expanded purchases of raw materials like crude oil and chemicals, and increased investment in facilities. Bananas and five new aircraft were also blamed for the red ink.

The increase rate of incoming letters of credit stayed around a disappointing 0.8 percent in March, blurring export prospects for April-June. The stalled economic rebound of the United States, and the instability of the Japanese yen and German mark are unlikely to help exports, it said.

The good news is that the Korean won is stable, sharpening the competitive edge of Korean goods, and exports to the Middle East have increased. Economic cooperation with socialist nations, and market expansion in Southeast Asia and Central and South America are also expected to boost exports, the Ministry said.

Imports may slow down despite expected increases in capital imports as international prices of raw materials, including crude oil, have stabilized, it predicted.

Trade Deficit Decreases Due to Exports Increase

SK0204011491 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] The trade deficit is visibly decreasing due to a marked increase in exports since the end of the Gulf War last month.

According to an interim tally by the Trade-Industry Ministry, the trade account registered a $1,145 million deficit on a customs clearance basis last month.

The figure was down from the $1,577 million in January and the $1,736 million in February, the highest monthly trade setback.

Last month, exports rose 9.1 percent over the corresponding month of last year to $5,749 million, while imports increased 16 percent to $6,894 million.

Exports during the first three months amounted to $15,328 million registering a 10.2 percent increase over the 1990 figure. Yet, trade recorded a $4,457 million quarterly deficit as imports also grew to $19,786 million or up 25.1 percent.

The 10.2 percent increase in exports during the first quarter was the first two-digit rise since the last quarter of 1988.

The sharp export increase in March was attributed to a growing demand from the United States, the 12-member European Community and other advanced countries as well as the normalization of shipments to the Middle East following the end of the Gulf war.

In particular, exports to Middle East countries last month rose more than 10 percent over a year ago in sharp contrast with a 39 percent decrease in the first two months of the year.

The export improvement also was ascribed to increasing price competitiveness of Korean-made products because of the won's depreciation against the Japanese yen and major European currencies, coupled with the economic recovery in the United States, the EC and other rich nations, analysts said.

Among the items whose exports are brisk are electrics, electronics, steel metals, ships and automobiles. Shipments to the EC, Southeast Asia, the Soviet Union and socialist countries are soaring most conspicuously.

However, exports of textiles, containers and toys still remain in the doldrums due to declining demand in the United States.

The ministry analyzed that elections of autonomous local councils on March 26, which was made a public holiday, resulted in a $2.4 million export loss.

In the meantime, the 16 percent increase in imports in March was attributed to the expansion of facility investment by business concerns in imported semiconductor equipment and machine tools. But imports of raw materials including crude oil continued to decrease.

The ministry predicted that exports will continue to perk up in the remainder of the year because of the won's stabilization against the U.S. dollar and strengthening international competitiveness of such strategic items as electronics and automobiles.

The ministry predicted that exports will continue to perk up in the remainder of the year because of the won's stabilization against the U.S. dollar and strengthening international competitiveness of such strategic items as electronics and automobiles.

The trade deficit for the year is set at $7 billion with $69.5 billion in exports and $76.5 billion in imports.

Farmers' Income Expected To Drop Due to Imports

SK3003080391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0624 GMT 30 Mar 91

[By Yi Yong-chol]

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (YONHAP)—Despite government assurances of rural development, South Korean farmers face a drop in income.

The timetable for agriculture, forestry and fishery import liberalization, the government says, puts priority on items in short supply, competitive in price and quality or lightly traded and does indeed shield farmers from pressure by the United States and other countries for wider open markets.

Not among the 131 items on the list are beef, apples, pepper, garlic and onions, affecting millions of farmers.

The list does, however, include fresh pears and peaches, hops, raw silk, frozen pork and other low-competitive products that rely on government subsidies.

Hops are the major cash crop for 1,170 farmers in Kangwon Province, who fear a decline in income despite government pledges to make up their loss. Lacking processing technology, pear and peach growers face challenges from high-quality U.S. fruits.

A sharp decline in prices is likely to result from imports of low-priced U.S. pork. The government promised to exclude pork and chicken from the list during the Uruguay Round multilateral trade talks.

The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry says the two meats are classified into 18 subdivisions in international trade. Only fresh frozen pork was put in the list because it is lightly traded, according to an official.

The lifting of import restrictions shows Korea is unable to resist foreign demands separate from the Uruguay Round.

Liberalization was due as Korea graduated from the balance of payments (BOP) article of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1989. Korea must honor the GATT/BOP rule that requires open markets for 273 agricultural, forestry and fishery items.

An appendix to the timetable says tariffs will be slapped on unliberalized items to equalize domestic and global prices if the Uruguay Round ends by 1993.

If talks on sesame end this year as scheduled, for example, the liberalization timetable will be suspended and replaced by tariffs that will raise the import price to match the domestic price. The tariffs will then be trimmed gradually over five to 10 years.

Shocks from the Uruguay Round are expected to be less than the impact of the import liberalization required by graduation from GATT/BOP in 1989.

To cushion the fall, the government promises to put some 3 trillion won (4.1 billion U.S. dollars) from tariff revenue into projects for rural development.

The government has to move fast to draw up detailed plans to minimize the impact on farmers, because market opening is only a matter of time.

The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry has often been accused of being slow, provoking angry protests by farmers as when gluts of beef and pepper were caused by excessive imports a few years ago.

Burma

3,000 Flee Villages Following Airstrikes

BK0204030191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Mae Hong Son—About 3,000 Karen and Burmese people in the area opposite Mae Sa Riang District of Mae Hong Son Province have abandoned their villages following two weeks of airstrikes by the Burmese Government against minority rebels, a Thai military source said.

About 500 of them had fled across the Salween River to north of Ban Mae Sam Laeb in Mae Sa Riang District and joined other refugees at Ka Htee Hta camp, about 10 km northwest of Mae Sa Riang town, bringing the number of refugees in the camp to more than 1,000.

Ka Htee Hta camp was set up in 1987 to house Karens and people of other origins who fled Burmese fighting.

Karen Relief Committee (KRC) officials said Phaw Hta, U Tu Hta and Mae La Tha were among 20 villages targeted for Burmese government airstrikes.

Two people, a pregnant woman and a man, were killed and many villagers wounded. Most had fled to live in the jungle near the Salween River, they said.

The KRC officials said in the past the Burmese Government had chosen to strike only military targets, but now civilian targets were included. KRC chairman Pastor Saw Robert Htwe said he was preparing a report on the refugees to present to international aid agencies based in Bangkok to ask for help.

The Thai military source said the Burmese authorities had asked Thailand to prevent refugees crossing to Thailand during suppression drives but Thailand had chosen to give them refuge and send them home when the situation returned to normal.

The Burmese Government was on a suppression drive against the rebels, aiming to overrun their headquarters at Manerplaw. Facing tough resistance, it had resorted to airstrikes, the source said.

Official Accuses Indian Embassy of Funding YSU

BK0204081191 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], addressed coordination meeting No. 2/91 of the Higher Education Department held at 1015 today in the conference hall of the Universities Central Council. [passage omitted]

[Begin Khin Nyunt recording] I would first like to express my pleasure and thanks for having this opportunity to meet and address distinguished faculty members, including rectors, professors, assistant professors, and registrars of the universities. During this meeting with distinguished faculty members I would like to explain the situation regarding the closure of universities and the reasons for it.

The reason for the closure of the universities dates back to a tea shop brawl between students of the institute [Rangoon Institute of Technology] and local residents on 12 March 1988. [passage omitted]

Reception centers to receive students from the border areas remain open. As of 7 March 1991 a total of 3,354 students and youths who have come to realize the genuine goodwill of the SLORC and the Defense Services have returned. A total of 505 students who have come to realize their mistakes have surrendered. Therefore, a total of 3,859 students and youths have returned from the jungles to the motherland.

I would like to inform distinguished faculty members, parents, and people about the sad plight of some students who have not been able to extricate themselves from the grip of insurgents and who have become armed insurgents, although they too wish to return to their parents. [passage omitted]

While the universities have remained closed, we have been able to reopen some classes at the Institutes of Medicine and the Institute of Dental Medicine during the second week of January 1991. The state government has spent its funds to methodically renovate school buildings, classrooms, and laboraties and to provide modern teaching aids to enable new students to study with a new spirit and thought, and to ensure the pursuit of high educational standards. [passage omitted] If faculty members can be responsible, the remaining classes at the Institutes of Medicine and the Institute of Dental Medicine will be opened.

I would like to announce through faculty members that arrangements are currently being made by principals concerned to open colleges and universities in states and divisions with the exception of Yangon [Rangoon] and Mandalay. Lashio College and Taunggyi Degree College in the Shan State have already opened in February and students who had been deprived of their college education are now peacefully pursuing their studies and will soon be sitting for their examinations.

The colleges and universities have been closed for over three years as a preemptive measure to ensure peace and law and order in the state and to prevent untoward instigations and unrest. However, all of us realize that students who want to pursue their studies peacefully have lost a lot of valuable time from the closure of colleges and universities. [passage omitted] I had already explained in my press conferences about how some diplomats in violation of their diplomatic conduct contacted students, carried out instigations to create unrest, provided financial assistance, and extended their influence. This is no time for me to be considerate, lenient, and evasive. I shall speak frankly about these diplomats who have continued to violate their diplomatic code.

Financial assistance was given to Min Zeya and members of Myanmar [Burma] Students Union and other student organizations through U Ye Tun during September 1989. Tint Sann, chairman of Yangon Students Union [YSU] was given kyat 30,000 to hold the conference of the students union in June 1989, and kyat 50,000 was given to U Sein Mya and his group, which has gone underground. The embassy which secretly gave a total of kyat 80,000 in financial assistance, including kyat 30,000 for the YSU during March 1989 was the Indian Embassy. We have evidence about how diplomatic privileges have been used to openly work with illegal organizations inside Myanmar and students organizations who have joined the insurgent organizations. [passage omitted]

I would like to hereby state that the SLORC shall continue along the Declaration No. 1/90 line announced on 27 July 1990. I shall reiterate the gist of Declaration No. 1/90 to help you remember. It stated that the SLORC will in no way accept the drawing up of a temporary constitution for forming a government to take over state power and that it will take effective action if it is done. [passage omitted]

Currently, faculty members are striving to reopen universities and colleges and faculty members, students, and parents have to pledge they will try to prevent disturbances in the future. If these three parties are prepared to prevent the recurrance of disturbances the state has no objection to reopening colleges and universities, and ministries concerned have been informed. We have learned that departmental authorities concerned are coordinating with faculty members here to enable the reopening of colleges and universities. The state government does not want the extended closure of schools and disruption of students' education. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Than Shwe Meets 'Leaders of National Races'

BK3003072891 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General Than Shwe, chairman of the Central Committee for Development of Border Regions and National Races [CCDBRNR] and commander in chief of the Defense Services, met with leaders of national races from border regions at 1300 today at No. 2 State Guest House on Thanlwin Road and discussed border region development and the eradication of narcotics.

Present at the meeting were members of the CCDBRNR—Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC]; Maj. Gen. Tin U, secretary-2; Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt, commander of the Yangon [Rangoon] Military Command Headquarters; senior officials from the Defense Ministry; responsible officers from the Work Committee for Development of Border Regions and National Races; and leaders of national races from the border regions—Saiphon Tayin, leader of Kachin nationals from Pangwa region; U Pheung Kyar Shin, leader of Kokang nationals; U Mahtu Naw, leader of Kachin nationals from northern Shan State; U Hsay Htin, leader of Shan nationals; U Chao Yi Lai, leader of Wa nationals; U Sai Lin, leader from Eastern Keng Tung; and their entourages.

Speaking at the meeting, Lt. Gen. Than Shwe explained the state is using large amounts of capital and human resources in its endeavor to develop border regions and national races. He said it is essential for local people to assist in the construction of roads and communications systems which is important for local development. He said it is important for respective regions to strive to end opium cultivation which is threatening the entire world. Therefore, he added, eradication of opium cultivation should be carried out as a national undertaking.

The leaders of national races presented their views on the role of the state in regional development, and in response, Lt. Gen. Than Shwe said the state will carry out the necessary tasks.

The meeting ended at 1445. Lt. Gen. Than Shwe then warmly greeted the leaders of national races and posed with them for a photograph. [passage omitted]

Delegation Leaves for ESCAP Meeting in Seoul

BK3003141691 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] A Myanmar [Burmese] delegation led by U Ohn Gyaw, director general of the Political Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, left Rangoon this morning by air to attend the 47th Meeting of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific [ESCAP] in Seoul in the Republic of Korea.

U Ohn Gyaw and his delegation were seen off at the airport by Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council; departmental officials from ministries concerned; and Mr. Hang-Kyong Kim, the ROK ambassador to Myanmar.

The Myanmar delegation is composed of departmental officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Planning and Finance, the Ministry of Industry-1, and the Ministry of Labor.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Patrols on Alert for Terrorists From Thailand

BK3103091291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0900 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 31 (AFP)—Border patrols in northern Malaysia are on the lookout for terrorists operating from Thailand in the wake of Tuesday's Singapore Airlines hijacking, press reports here said.

Director of Internal Security and Public Order Syed Othman Syed Ali said Saturday that the police had photographs and information of terrorists operating from Thailand.

"The border units have been told to be extra careful and carry out strict checks on foreigners coming through the checkpoints," he said, adding that there is a possibility of terrorists slipping in to carry out their missions.

Three of the four Pakistanis shot dead by the Singapore anti-terrorist squad last Wednesday after hijacking the Singapore Airline airbus had entered Malaysia from Thailand.

At the peak of the Gulf war, Thai police had identified more than a dozen Middle East terrorist groups operating from Thailand.

Thai authorities also seized explosives and weapons apparently intended for terrorist attacks on foreign establishments in the country.

Mr. Syed Othman said Malaysia was seeking further information through Interpol on terrorists operating from Thailand.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed has ordered stepped up security at airports and all border points while Inspector-General of Police Haniff Omar has said that anyone found near airports with weapons would be detained.

Airline Launches Inaugural Flight to Beijing

BK0104074291 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Malaysia Airlines, MAS, has launched its inaugural flight to Beijing, its second destination in China after Guangzhou. The DC-10 flight yesterday carried 89 passengers. MAS started twice-weekly services to Guangzhou in June 1989.

French Minister of State Hails Proposed EAEG

BK3003050691 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0308 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 30 (OANA-BERNAMA)—France welcomes the Malaysian-proposed East Asia Economic Grouping (EAEG) as a "bold initiative," its minister of state, Tony Dreyfus said here. Being a supporter of free trade, France did not consider the EAEG as grouping to defend particular interests, he added.

Dreyfus, who is attached to the Prime Minister's Office, was speaking at a press conference Friday at the end of a two-day official visit to promote closer economic, political, and cultural ties with Malaysia.

The EAEG idea was mooted by Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed as a grouping of countries in East Asia to enable them to speak with "one voice" in the world trading system.

The proposal received mixed reactions, with some countries, like the United States expressing reservations that the plan could run counter to free trade.

Dreyfus, who earlier visited Vietnam, held talks with Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi, Defence Minister Najib Razak, Deputy Finance Minister Abdul Ghani Othman, and Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry Chua Ji Meng, here.

He said he was not here as "an arms trader or salesman," making it clear that his mission was mainly to enhance bilateral ties between the two countries.

To strengthen economic cooperation with Malaysia, he said the French Government proposed that France transfer its technology to Malaysia.

Dreyfus said France possessed state-of-the-art technology in many fields like telecommunications and water treatment.

Singapore

Joint Naval Exercise Held With Indonesia

BK2903031491 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 27 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] The first naval exercise this year between the Singapore and Indonesian navies is being held in the Java Sea.

The 10-day Passex, a sea exercise held when ships travel from one port of call to another, is aimed at improving naval procedures between the two sides and maintaining close ties.

The Republic of Indonesia Navy, which will be hosting this Passex, is represented by the KRI [Republic of Indonesia Ship] Tongkol, a fast patrol boat and KRI Rencong, a fast attack craft.

The Republic of Singapore Navy [RSN] is represented by two missile gun boats (MGBs), RSS Sea Hawk and RSS Sea Dragon and a landing ship tank (LST), RSS Persistence.

Lieutenant-Colonel Tan Peng Yong, the Commanding Officer of 182 Squadron, is commanding the RSN's task group for the exercise.

The two RSN missile gun boats left for Indonesia yesterday evening and will return on April 4.

The Passex this year coincides with the visit by the LST, RSS Persistence, to Jakarta on a midshipman sea training deployment.

Ministry Issues Statement on Hijacking Incident

BK2803103091 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 28 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] Six cylindrical sticks and three knives were recovered from the four hijackers who were shot dead by SAF [Singapore Armed Forces] commandos on Wednesday morning.

A Home Affairs Ministry statement said that an analysis by the Department of Scientific Services [DSS] confirmed the sticks to be explosives as defined under the Arms and Explosives Act.

Under the Act, these include any substance which can produce an explosion or pyrotechnic effect.

Fireworks and gunpowder both fall under this category as their explosive properties render them dangerous to life.

The DSS ignited one of the sticks recovered from the hijackers and "it gave off a shower of very hot sparks reaching 1 m in height and half a metre in diameter."

Two of the knives bore the Singapore Airlines logo and appeared to be inflight cutlery while the third was a penknife with a 6-cm blade.

The exhibits were displayed to the press at the CID [Criminal Investigation Department] headquarters in Robinson Road. Some of the sticks were hidden in cannisters, 15 cm long and 5 cm in diameter.

The statement also said that the 114 passengers who were held hostage by the four Pakistnis on SQ 117 were from 18 countries, including Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Belgium, Britain, France and Italy.

The hostages were freed after an eight-hour ordeal when SAF commandos stormed the SIA Airbus at 6:50 am on Wednesday and shot dead the hijackers.

The three-page statement said it regretted that the episode could not be settled through negotiations even though the Government tried its best to meet the demands of the hijackers by trying to contact Ms Benazir Bhutto and to provide fuel in exchange for the release of the hostages.

"Throughout the episode, the Government gave the safety of the hostages the highest priority," it said.

It also outlined in detail the major developments of the incident, starting from the takeoff from Subang Airport at 9:38 pm on Tuesday.

Once in the air, the hijackers seized control of the plane and directed the pilot to transmit various demands to the Singapore Air Traffic Control.

"The Malaysian police assisted the Singapore police in identifying the likely hijackers within hours of the hijack," it said.

After the plane landed in Singapore at 10:24 pm, the four demanded the release of Pakistan People's Party leaders from jails in Karachi, Hyderabad, and Sakkar. This included the husband of Ms Bhutto, Asif Ali Zardari.

They also asked to speak to the Pakistani Ambassador and wanted the aircraft refuelled for flight to Australia and later to Iraq or Libya.

If nothing was done, the hijackers warned that someone would be killed, the statement said.

At this stage, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs swung into action. It relayed the demands to the Pakistani High Commission and also contacted Ms Bhutto's residence in Larkana. They were told she was not available. The ministry also contacted the Australian High Commission regarding the hijackers' intention of flying to Australia. After consulting with its government, the High Commission said it would not agree to the hijackers landing in Australia.

At midnight, the hijackers pushed flight steward Bernard Tan out of the aircraft.

"He told the police that the hijackers were armed with what appeared to be hand grenades," the statement said.

At this point, the hijackers started pressing for their demands to be met and at 2 am, they became agitated. They started poouring alcohol all over the floor and seats of the aircraft and threatened to set them ablaze.

To show they meant business, they set fire to a rolled-up newspaper in the cockpit. The hijackers calmed down after being told by negotiators that fuel was on its way.

At 3 am, chief steward Philip Cheong was pushed out of the plane, suffering slight injuries. Before this, he was kicked and punched by the hijackers.

"He informed the police that the hijackers had large 'gadgets' which were a foot in length," said the statement.

He had also seen two hijackers with knives and witnessed a passenger being assaulted.

At this point, arrangements were made to refuel the plane.

One of the hijackers said: "You fill the petrol. I promise to release the passengers. You be careful, my commandos are all bad men."

Not wanting to antagonise them, the first load of petrol was delivered. The hijackers then agreed to release 10 women and children before the next load of fuel. But minutes later, they changed their mind and refused to release any hostages. They demanded to leave immediately for Jakarta or Brunei.

"They were very insistent and were getting violent. They were also pouring alcohol in the cockpit and onto the air craft instruments," the statement said.

To placate them, negotiators told the hijackers that they could expect to speak to Ms Bhutto soon. They were not interested and refused to respond.

"Instead they demanded that the pilot start the engines immediately. The hijackers threatened to kill in five minutes if their instructions were not carried out.

"The hijackers were desperate and the situation was getting out of control."

At this stage, the SAF commandos were directed to move into position so that they could storm as soon as orders were given.

Said the statement:" "The hijackers began a countdown even while negotiations continued. When they called out three minutes, the commandos had to proceed."

Cambodia

Hun Sen Letter Calls for SNC Meeting in May

BK0204140091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1318 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Bangkok, April 2 (AFP)—The Phnom Penh government proposed Tuesday that a meeting of an interim authority of representatives of Cambodia's warring factions be held in May.

The proposal was made in a letter sent by Hun Sen, the prime minister of Cambodia's Vietnam-backed government, to French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and his Indonesian counterpart Ali Alatas.

The authority, the Supreme National Council (SNC), was formed last year with six representatives each from Phnom Penh and a guerrilla coalition joining the Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge, the alliance's dominant faction, and two smaller U.S.-aided groups.

It has met twice since, the first time in Bangkok and in Paris in December. But the talks have proved unable to eliminate major differences between Phnom Penh and its adversaries.

Mr. Hun Sen's letter, which was carried over Phnom Penh's official news agency SPK monitored here, was sent to Mr. Dumas and Mr. Alatas because France and Indonesia jointly chair an international peace conference on Cambodia.

"We would wish that the meeting, if it takes place, be held in May of this year," wrote Mr. Hun Sen, who leads Phnom Penh's SNC team.

The Cambodian leader said he was proposing the meeting take place next month because of unspecified visits abroad by Phnom Penh SNC members this month.

Mr. Hun Sen, in his letter, reiterated a call by Phnom Penh urging France and Indonesia to use their "influence to promote a voluntary ceasefire (in Cambodia) and an end to (outside) military supplies to the Cambodian parties."

Chea Sim Comments on Polls, Ties With Hun Sen

BK0204054491 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0437 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK 2 April—Chea Sim, Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the United Front for Construction and Defence of the Kampuchean Fatherland, received here on March 28 a delegation of the AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE led by Mr. Yvan Chemla, director of the AFP Bureau for Asia and the Pacific.

Chairman Chea Sim informed his guests of the crimes committed by the genocidal Pol Pot clique and their consequences and the progress made by the State of Cambodia in many spheres, especially in economic reform.

On the process of a solution to the Cambodian conflict, Chairman Chea Sim said: "Motivated by a goodwill aspiration for an end to the war and to the bloodshed and sufferings of the Cambodian people, we (the State of Cambodia) have accepted most points of the peace plan drafted by the five powers, with the exception of a few negative points. However, a settlement to the dispute does not depend solely on the Phnom Penh Government's side, but also on the other factions in the conflict, as is the case with the reconvening of the Supreme National Council."

The Cambodian leader thanked the French Government for its assistance and efforts in the settlement of the Cambodian issue, and expressed his hope that AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE would keep the world public well informed of the reality in Cambodia.

He said that Cambodia is going ahead with an open market economy based on investments from the private sector in the country and from overseas, but, he stressed, this does not mean we intend to abandon our chosen political path.

Chea Sim also recalled the National Assembly's decision to organize elections in Cambodia in 1992 with or without a political solution.

Asked whether there is any divergence of opinion between him and Prime Minister Hun Sen as reported by foreign sources, Chea Sim said:

"Those are false reports. Our party is always unanimous in its views. Each one of us must always adhere to the political line adopted by the collective leadership. We all have always followed the same path charted by our party."

Chea Sim Chairs National Assembly Group Meeting

BK3003114491 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1100 GMT 30 Mar 91

["Communique of the National Assembly Office"]

[Text] The National Assembly office would like to inform the public that on 29 March 1991 at 0730 at the National Assembly office, the standing committee of the National Assembly held a meeting under the chairmanship of Comrade Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly and chairman of the National Assembly's standing committee, to discuss and solve a number of problems relating to the interpretation and implementation of laws, proposed by the Council of State, the People's Supreme Court, and the Attorney General attached to the People's Supreme Court.

Items on the agenda were examined, discussed, and solved all day long. The meeting was held in an atmosphere of solidarity and good understanding and achieved satisfactory results.

Heng Samrin Returns From Lao Party Congress

BK3003143591 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] At 1530 on 30 March, the high-ranking delegation of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] led by Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of State, which attended the fifth congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party in Vientiane, returned home safely.

Among those greeting the delegation at Pochentong airport were Comrade Chea Sim, member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of both the National Assembly and the front National Council; Comrade Chea Soth, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Say Chhum, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and standing vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Mat Ly, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the National Assembly, and vice chairman of the party Central Committee's Control Commission; Comrade General Tie Banh, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and defense minister; Comrade Men Sam-an, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Cambodian Federation of Trade Unions; Comrade Nguon Nhel, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and agriculture minister; Comrade Ney Pena, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the party Central Committee's Control Commission; Comrade Sin Song, alternate member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and interior minister; Comrade Sim Ka, alternate member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the Phnom Penh City party committee; Comrade Lieutenant General Pol Saroeun, alternate member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, deputy defense minister, and chief of staff of the Cambodian People's Army; Comrade Kong Sam-ol, member of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; and many comrades ministers, deputy ministers, chiefs, and deputy chiefs of party and state establishments and central mass organizations.

Comrade Thongsoukhoun Phounsavan, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to Cambodia, and Comrade (Tim Song), acting charge d'affaires of the Vietnamese Embassy in Cambodia, were also present.

Heng Samrin Greets Laos' Kaysone on Election

BK0104072891 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0412 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 1—Heng Samrin, general secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee, has sent warmest congratulations to Kaysone Phomvihan on his election as chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee.

In his congratulatory message, Heng Samrin said: "We are firmly convinced that under the clear-sighted leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party with you as chairman, the heroic people of Laos would obtain more successes in the implementation of the resolutions just adopted by the LPRP Fifth Congress."

The message wished the solidarity, friendship and multiform cooperation between the two parties and peoples further consolidation and development.

It also wished Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan the best of health and success in his noble mission.

Bou Thang's SRV Visit Detailed

BK2403092691 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] Implementing the cooperation agreement between the Army General Political Departments of the two countries, Cambodia and Vietnam, at the invitation of the Vietnamese People's Army [VPA] General Political Department, a delegation of cadres of the General Political Department led by Comrade General Bou Thang, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and chief of the Cambodian People's Army [CPA] General Political Department, recently visited the fraternal SRV and attended the bilateral conference of the two Armies' General Political Departments, held from 10 to 16 March.

Greeting the delegation of our CPA's General Political Department were Comrade General Nguyen Quyet, secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of State, and chief of the VPA General Political Department; Comrade General (Le Quang Thieu), deputy chief of the

General Political Department; and many leading cadres from the department and units attached to the department.

On 14 March, the bilateral conference of the two Armies' General Political Departments was held in a cordial atmosphere and with sentiments of fraternal solidarity. Attending this traditional meeting were Comrade General Bou Thang, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and chief of the CPA General Political Department; Comrade Colonel Preap Tan, deputy chief of the General Political Department; Comrade Colonel (Sut Sam-aok), chief of the Cadres Department; Comrade Colonel (Kev Samuon), chief of the Security Department; Comrade Colonel (Mau Tin), chief of the Organization Department; Comrade Major (Chan Saman), chief of the Policy Line Department; Comrade Lieutenant-Colonel (Sok Than), chef de cabinet of the General Political Department; Comrade Major (Prak Sosieng), deputy chief of the army's Political School; and Comrade Major (Yi Vandim), deputy military attache to the SRV.

On the side of the VPA General Political Department were Comrade General Nguyen Quyet, secretary of the CPV Central Committee, vice chairman of SRV Council of State, and chief of the VPA General Political Department; Comrade General (Le Quang Thieu), deputy chief of the General Political Department; Comrade General (Phan Hung), commander of the 5th Military Region; Comrade General (Nguyen The Chuong), deputy chief of the 5th Military Region Political Department; Comrade (Vo Tran Hep), chief of the Cadres Department; Comrade (Nguyen Van Chay), chief of the Propaganda and Education Department; Comrade General (Nguyen Van Se), chief of the Organization Department; Comrade General (Tho Thi Vy), chef de cabinet of the General Political Department; Comrade Colonel (Nguyen Tran Ly), deputy chief of the Security Department; Comrade (Nguyen That Bang), deputy director of the army's school for political officers; Comrade Colonel (Le Huy Ty), deputy chief of the Foreign Military Department; and Comrade Colonel (Nguyen Quyen), acting chief of the Policy Line Department.

In a friendly atmosphere of the two parties, states, and armies, and after highlighting the general situation and recent achievements scored by Vietnam in the past year and the party and political results scored by the VPA, Comrade General Nguyen Quyet pointed out that, based on the lofty heroism of Chairman Ho Chi Minh, who had blazed the trail, and in accordance with reforms in Vietnam, the VPA has further increased hope and firm confidence in the policies of the party and state and resolutely pledged to follow the correct leadership of the CPV in order to move toward scoring new successes in the task of building and defending the motherland.

Lately, although there has been some turmoil in the world and threats from some hegemonist and reactionary countries, the VPA pledges to heighten its resolute will to overcome every obstacle and further increase the relations of solidarity among the three Indochinese countries' armies and people. Vietnam will continue to strengthen its unswerving views and stance and resolutely follow the leadership of the CPV in order to build a prosperous and happy country. Along with the resolute stance of firmly preserving the party's leadership within the army and in light of the party's sixth congress, the party and political work in the VPA has greatly contributed to making the army a vanguard force in fighting and in production work. The army has carried out the work well and firmly maintained cleanliness among its ranks and the good character and tradition of the people's army; implemented well the policy toward cadres and combatants, and retired army personnel; and has constantly increased the precious spirit of international solidarity.

Speaking on the occasion, Comrade General Bou Thang reported on the situation and results of the party and political work achieved by the CPA over the past more than a year with complete mastery in which party and political work among the Armed Forces has been constantly heightened. Through the past more than one year period with full mastery and countless obstacles and difficulties, the Cambodian Armed Forces and people have unanimously cooperated in resolutely opposing the genocidal alliance, preventing it from returning to power, and firmly maintaining social and national achievements. The State of Cambodia's prestige has been further heightened in the international arena. Through real fighting and training, the CPA has further gained experiences and scored new and greater victories [passage indistinct]. Comrade General Bou Thang, expressed joy at the major successes in the first phase of reform in Vietnam and among the VPA, which has overcome trying difficulties and continues to be a loyal fighting force to defend the party, people, and motherland. The CPA is very proud to have the heroic VPA as its brother and friend.

After informing one another and exchanging experiences, the two sides happily noted that the relations of friendship between the party, the State of Cambodia, and the two countries' people have constantly developed and blossomed and been effective.

During the stay and working visit to the SRV, the delegation of our CPA's General Political Department was honored by a courtesy visit to Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV. Present on this occasion were Comrade General Nguyen Quyet, secretary of the CPV Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of State, and deputy chief of the General Political Department; and Comrade General (Le Quang Thieu), deputy chief of the VPA General Political Department.

Speaking on this occaison, Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh expressed joy at the success of the bilateral conference of the two Armies' General Political Departments and stressed the unswerving stance of the CPV in the cause of reform and to always preserve the traditional relations of solidarity between the two fraternal countries, Vietnam and Cambodia.

On behalf of the delegation of the CPA General Political Department, Comrade General Bou Thang welcomed the successes and major achievements scored by Vietnam and pointed out the stance of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party in a political solution to the Cambodian problem and a number of essential principles in the party and political work within the CPA. Comrade General Bou Thang wished Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh definitive victory in leading the party and Vietnamese people in the cause of reform.

After the bilateral conference of the two countries' General Political Departments concluded, the delegation led by Comrade General Bou Thang visited the 5th and 7th Military Regions, which include Thuan Hai, Khanh Hoa, Binh Dinh, Quang Ngai, and Quang Nam- Danang Provinces. Upon arriving in each province, the delegation of our General Political Department was most cordially received by the comrade secretaries of the provincial party committees and many other leading provincial cadres.

At every place visited, Comrade General Bou Thang conveyed the sentiments of the Cambodian party, state, front, and army—which will always remember the great deed and assistance of the VPA in liberating the Cambodian people all over the country from the brutal and savage acts of the genocidal Pol Pot regime—and, to this day, with the effective cooperation between the two countries, have further developed and blossomed. This has made Cambodia a country which is developing and assuming every task for itself. Comrade General Bou Thang stressed that the Cambodian people want genuine peace but absolutely oppose the genocidal Pol Pot regime's return.

After ending the successful visit on 17 March, the delegation of our CPA General Political Department returned home safely. Seeing the delegation off at the airport were Comrade Nguyen Quyet, secretary of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of State, and chief of the VPA General Political Department; Comrade General (Le Quang Thieu), deputy chief of the General Political Department; and many leading cadres from the Department and other services attached to the Department. The delegation of our CPA General Political Department brought back sentiments and a sincere supportive spirit from the fraternal Vietnamese party, state, and army for the independence, peace, freedom, and happiness of our Cambodian people.

Greeting our delegation upon arrival were Comrade Major General Tha Thanchan, deputy chief of the General Political Department; Comrade Lieutenant-Colonel Kang Than, deputy chief of the Foreign Relations Department; and many leading cadres of the General Political Department. Comrade Colonel (Phan Kim Lan), military attache of the Vietnamese Embassy to Cambodia, was also present.

Sihanouk Urged To Abandon Alliance With Pol Pot

BK2803113391 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Station commentary: "While the Squirrel Enjoys Eating Figs, the Duck and Dear Suffer, Because This Fruit Would Block the One's Throat and Burn the Other's Entrails"]

[Text] Sihanouk has never really relinquished the position of chairman of the so-called resistance movement. In the past, because of his own ambition and as part of his maneuvering, Sihanouk was left outside the political arena and forced to say he resigned from the post of chairman of the so-called National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia, while in fact he handed the post over to his son and wife. This has always been Sihanouk's long-time trick to monopolize power.

Everyone knows that the so-called resistance movement of Sihanouk, Son Sann, and Pol Pot is nothing but a genocidal alliance whose rotten core is covered up by a cosmetic veneer not unlike a rosy wild fig full of insects. This alliance, which was forged on heaps of the flesh and bones of the Cambodian people in 1982, despite the buffeting of frequent serious internal splits and disputes over the past 10 years, has survived to the present thanks to the tender care and pampering given by both Sihanouk and Son Sann. Because of this alliance, Pol Pot under a thick layer of veneer succeeded in fooling public opinion and managed to hold on to the Cambodian seat until 1990.

The main goal of this genocidal alliance is not only to cover up the crimes of the genocidal Pol Pot gang, but also to try to bring the genocidal Pol Pot regime back to power so it can massacre our people once again under the pretext of fighting Vietnam.

For the sake of this coalition with Pol Pot, Sihanouk has done everything, from conspiring in and abetting the crimes of the Polpotist butchers to following the orders of and defending the Polpotist criminals against the rebirth of the nation.

In the past 12 years while our people throughout the country lived in freedom, a number of our brothers who were misled by Sihanouk were ordered by this prince to sneak into our defense perimeters. As a result, some of them were killed or wounded and others suffered from shortages of food and medicine, having to live miserably in the jungles. When they ventured into villages, many of them died in the counteroffensives launched by our militiamen and people. Moreover, these Sihanoukists were regularly sniped at and killed by the Polpotists. This happened so often that Sihanouk himself sometimes could not stand it anymore and more than once threatened to resign as head of the resistance groups.

Also in the past 12 years, because of this criminal alliance, our people who lived in the remote regions, especially the brothers and sisters inhabiting the areas near the Cambodian-Thai border, suffered countless physical and moral retributions. Everything that was restored and built by our people was pulled down by the Polpotists, Sihanoukists, and Sonsannians. Particularly after the complete withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteer troops in September 1989, the Pol Pot-Sihanouk-Son Sann gang escalated the war in Cambodia by indiscriminately firing artillery barrages on villages and communes, including monasteries, abodes, temples, and the people's houses, thus causing untold destruction and suffering.

In short, Sihanouk's alliance with the Polpotists can only cause suffering to both the Sihanoukists and the Cambodian people in general. It has the same effect on the Cambodian people as the fig in this old saying: While the squirrel enjoys eating figs, the duck and deer suffer, because this fruit would block the one's throat and burn the other's entrails.

Thorugh this comparison, our people realize that it is this genocidal alliance that is the root cause of the lengthening of the civil war in Cambodia and the protraction of their current misery. Our people hold that if Sihanouk is really a patriot as claimed, he should abandon this criminal alliance and side with the people in jointly preventing at all costs the recurrence of this evil regime. Otherwise, Sihanouk must share with Pol Pot the responsibility before history for the suffering and danger caused to the motherland by the civil war in Cambodia.

Party Paper Urges Consolidation of Local Militia

BK3003111591 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 29 Mar 91

[PRACHEACHON editorial: "Actively Strengthening Militia Forces To Be Able To Fight the Enemy and Firmly Defend Localities"]

[Text] The militia is an indispensable defense force in localities. Localities that efficiently put together militia forces can ensure their own defense. In the past as in the present, we have made good use of combined forces and means in counterattacking the enemy along village and commune perimeters and enemy hideouts in inaccessible areas and have beaten back the enemy's destructive activities against our state authorities and people. We did this through our combining the militia with the regular, provincial, district, and police forces to ambush the enemy at its entry point, cutting off communications between the enemy in the jungles and the hidden ones.

In fact, the militia forces in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Kompong Thom, Kompong Chhnang, Kratie, and so on, and a number of villages and communes have uncovered enemy arms caches in places such as Battambang, Siem Reap, and Kompong Thom Provinces. Many militiamen have also defended their localities against the enemy. Their combat quality has been high and the results better than before. With attention from the party, party chapters, and state authorities in communes, many village and commune militiamen have implemented this policy of having combat ready militias. Furthermore, our militias have also painstakingly defended communication lines, bridges, drainage pipes, rubber plantations, factories, and enterprises.

Generally, villages and communes have rallied combined forces from every sector, political, ideological, military, and economic to build stronger militias. In spite of this, we have not yet fulfilled the requirements and heavy tasks of the country and nation. The enemy still nurtures the desire to topple us through military means by escalating the war, sowing new crimes, and destroying our people's property and peace. The enemy wants to grab villages and communes and use these as support bases. Our militia is still not competent in some areas. Things are still too loose. Militias still cannot be set up in the localities. There is a lack of training and little improvement to their daily lives. Initiative is absent.

In realizing the importance of the year 1991, the party, party chapters, and all levels of state authorities should rally, strengthen, and sufficiently expand commune militia forces according to the plan and based on the realities. Many villages should be set up as commune mobile units to assist villages facing complex problems. Villages and communes should strive to maintain the quality of trench and weapon networks in localities. Weapons should be clean always and never unnecessarily. Militias should be combat- ready. There should be increased surveillance of communication lines, roads, bridges, drainage pipes, rubber plantations, factories, enterprises, and major economic bases. The will to defend villages and communes must be inculcated. Political and ideological education should be promoted. The militia should be trained to defend their localities. Village and commune state authorities should improve their daily lives. By strengthening and developing our militia forces in all aspects we will heighten and sharpen their will to defend villages and communes.

Son Sann Issues Message on SRV Presence

BK0104142191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 1 Apr 91

["Message Delivered by His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and prime minister of the National Government of Cambodia, prior to his departure for Tokyo, Japan on 25 March to the clergy and Cambodian compatriots nationwide"—recorded]

[Text] Greetings to the respected clergy and all beloved compatriots in Cambodia as well as in Kampuchea Kraom.

Today, I ask to be permitted to comment on an issue over which all of us have great concern—the presence of the Vietnamese in Cambodia.

I understand that all of you hate the Vietnamese aggressors and also know the exact number of the Vietnamese currently staying in Cambodia. I have repeatedly said that there are nearly 2 million Vietnamese immigrants in our country. However, according to various reports, the Vietnamese in Cambodia currently number over 1.3 million, but this excludes the Vietnamese troops there. And now there are between 57,000 and 60,000 Vietnamese soldiers in Cambodia as well. So, the total number of Vietnamese currently living in Cambodia represents 20 percent of the Cambodian population. This ratio is unacceptable and no country has allowed for this proportion of 10 or 20 percent. However, some personalities have argued against this, saying those Vietnamese are former residents of Cambodia.

But I would like to tell you that this is not true. Because the number of Vietnamese previously living in Cambodia did not exceed 400,000. And everyone knows that some Vietnamese died under the republican regime and the others returned to Vietnam, and the Vietnamese authorities already solved the issue of those Vietnamese from Cambodia. As such, the 300,000 or 400,000 Vietnamese residents in Cambodia have already returned to Vietnam. Besides, under the Khmer Rouge rule, many Cambodian and Vietnamese citizens died, and a great number of other Vietnamese fled to foreign countries such as France, the United States, and so on. Before, the Vietnamese immigrants in Cambodia were 900,000 at the most. But at present they are 1.3 million. So, with the aforesaid reports you can right away judge who lies and who tells the truth.

At present, the Vietnamese—some of them cannot even speak Cambodian—come to Cambodia every day. Some walk in through rice fields in Takeo and Prey Veng Provinces at night while the others slip in through waterways. And all of us know that former Vietnamese aggressor soldiers have not been repatriated. They have instead been disguised as civilians. Their task is to misappropriate our fertile lands along the Mekong and Tonle Sap Rivers—I have raised this issue on many occasions. They have also taken your jobs and our products, such as pepper, rubber, and timber. They have plundered several thousand cubic meters of our timber in Kratie and Mondolkiri Provinces. Now the two provinces are bare. As you know, the destruction of the forest will adversely affect our agricultural production in the future. The dry and rainy seasons will be degenerated—there will be a shortage of water or an inundation. Felling trees in some countries, such as Thailand, is prohibited at the moment. And efforts are made at reforestation, and rewards are even given to those who plant trees.

I have received a report saying that every family of the Vietnamese immigrants in Cambodia has been provided with a radio. What is the purpose of the radio? The radio is for receiving orders from Hanoi for the Vietnamese aggressors in Cambodia on what to do in the country and how to control the Cambodians.

As for the compatriots who are forcibly drafted, have they ever been nominated as leading cadres? Are those who operate important weapons, such as cannons and tanks, Vietnamese or Cambodian? Most of the Cambodian soldiers are used to serve the Vietnamese's interest and to help the latter kill the fellow Cambodian countrymen. I have repeatedly pleaded with those Cambodian soldiers to stop killing the Cambodians. And I know that those who are currently living in Phnom Penh do not want to serve as soldiers, but they are forced to do so—those who do not have enough money for bribes are conscripted and placed under Vietnamese command. The Vietnamese have either openly or secretly ordered the Cambodians to kill their own compatriots.

It is reported that at present, the Vietnamese have ordered the Phnom Penh troops to attack areas controlled by the nationalist noncommunist forces. Everywhere they reached, they persecuted local villagers without considering that the inhabitants are as Cambodian as they are. They have completely confiscated rice and paddy of the villagers—as you know, later this year we will be faced with a serious shortage of rice and paddy—and burned houses and local office buildings. Is it wrong or right to have done so? Please think about it. And they have even taken away women's bras.

I have had not enough time to describe the activities carried out by the Vietnamese in Cambodia. But I realize that all the compatriots inside the country can no longer allow these hardships to continue. Although they are afraid to react, they are extremely furious. That being the case, I appeal to those compatriots to remain patient a little bit longer and to the leaders in Phnom Penh to protect the Cambodians for they are also Cambodian. The Cambodians should defend and assist their fellow countrymen. The Cambodians should not kill each other. And the compatriots living in Cambodia should tell the Vietnamese straight that Cambodia belongs to the Cambodians, and that they must leave Cambodia and let the Cambodians enjoy living in their country. The Vietnamese have a big country that they seized from Champa [a former Muslim state now part of Vietnam] and Cambodia. So, I just want to call on the communist Vietnamese to go home.

I wish to tell the Vietnamese that if you do not return, you should be careful. You are already aware that at least we have some moral standards, but with another Cambodian group —and with them you should be cautious—they are extremely brutal. Wherever they have reached, no Vietnamese are spared. So, I think it is better for you to depart as soon as possible. If the Khmer Rouge arrive in your areas, I can see that you would not be able to flee on time. You should realize this and go home as quickly as possible.

As for the Cambodians, you should know that Cambodia is for the Cambodian people. Before you used to abandon your houses whenever you saw the Vietnamese. You should not attempt to do so anymore. If you leave your premises, the Vietnamese will occupy them straightaway. We should continue to occupy our land—if we retreat, they will come and seize it. As you know, the

Vietnamese have already misappropriated all our produce, fertile lands, forests, and rubber. So, we should not depart anymore. If you continue to flee, our territory will be wiped off the map.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I wish to urge the brothers, leaders in Phnom Penh, to think thoroughly. You must not prohibit the fellow countrymen from enjoying the broadcast of Voice of the Khmer [VOK]. The VOK radio belongs to the Cambodians, represents the voice of the Cambodians, and protects the interest of the Cambodians. The VOK radio's sole objective is to make all of us understand so we will be able to arrive at a compromise. If you do not want our compatriots to listen to VOK, you should not forbid them. The more you prevent them from tuning in and the more you arrest them, the more they become want to tune in. If you are willing to compromise in the future and if you understand that VOK will be useful for our country in the future, you should not enforce such a prohibition. The more you bar our compatriots from listening, the more eager they become for that. This has been my experience.

The prohibition against listening to VOK enforced by the Phnom Penh leaders means that they do not want peace and a compromise, but want the Cambodians to continue killing one another. This is their biggest mistake. If you want the Cambodians to kill each other, this means that you serve Vietnam's interest. But as you are not Vietnamese, you are therefore asked to think about this thoroughly and not allow the Cambodians to kill each other anymore. And if you do not realize this, you should listen to VOK. If you do not want to tune in, you must let our compatriots listen to the radio as they wish. If you are able to listen to and understand the radio later and if our compatriots are allowed for it, then we will have the opportunity to unite in the future. If we do not compromise, I warn you, Cambodia will certainly disappear.

I have learned that leaders in Phnom Penh have established their own armed units in provinces. Along with this, they have also either refused to allow the United Nations to maintain peace or to have sufficient force to prevent any Cambodian party, namely the Khmer Rouge, from seizing power. In so doing, how can you put the blame on the Khmer Rouge. You should permit the United Nations with an adequate force to safeguard peace and organize free elections for us. Our compatriots have already clearly understood their responsibility and duties and they will only vote for the good person. I call on the Phnom Penh leaders not to set up and hide their troops and to only perform good deeds. You have plenty of opportunities to see the people whenever you wish. So, you should make our people understand, then they will vote for you. I have heard that if elections are held, the brothers in Phnom Penh would win 70 percent of the votes. But it was later said to be only 60 percent, but 60 percent would be enough to win. The brothers should behave well toward the people and the people will vote for you. You would thus win and no one would contest. I thus have this to tell the brothers in Phnom Penh: If you get 60 percent of the votes, I will comply and will not protest. You can have the power. This is because the United Nations, the Big Five involved in the efforts to solve the Cambodian problem, have all the necessary documents to come to Cambodia and arrange peace so that the elections can be held generally in a correct manner and in a neutral atmosphere, without giving preference or partiality to any one side. We should thus let them do it, for they have their own measures to prevent the Khmer Rouge from returning and seizing power.

Now, let us go back to what I first raised in my conversation with you, venerable monks and compatriots: The Vietnamese aggressors are the threat to our race, our nation. For this reason, all Cambodians, be they Cambodians in Phnom Penh or in any other faction, should join hands in order to drive the Vietnamese back to their country, for Cambodia belongs to the Cambodians and the Vietnamese must go home. This is all I have to say in my conversation with you today. I take this opportunity to take leave of you, venerable monks and compatriots. When I return from Tokyo I will resume this conversation with you. I would like also to assure some brothers in Cambodia that I have already received news from you. As a result, I make this message in response to you.

My profound homage to venerable monks and so long to all dear compatriots before leaving for Tokyo.

Laos

Kaysone Phomvihan Receives Nguyen Van Linh

BK2903142791 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan received Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, and his delegation, who are here to attend the fifth congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP], at noon on 29 March in Vientiane capital.

Present during the meeting were other leaders namely Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, and Comrade Phoun Sipaseut. The meeting lasted over an hour.

Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan expressed thanks to the CPV delegation for its participation in the fifth LPRP congress and reiterated the ever-strengthening special solidarity and friendship relations, and cooperation between the two parties. Comrade Secretary General Nguyen Van Linh praised the new achievements accomplished by the LPRP from its endeavers in leading the Lao multiethnic people to grasp new victories as described in the political report presented by Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan to the Fifth LPRP Congress on 27 March. Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh noted new changes in many fields, especially in the development of the popular democratic system, economic structure, managment apparatuses, and political system as well as in broadening foreign economic relations and international relations.

Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan and Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh agreed that the friendly relations and comprehensive cooperation between the parties and fraternal peoples of the two countries must be further strengthened for the common interest of the two countries.

Heng Samrin Desires Better Relations With PRC

BK3003061891 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0443 GMT 30 Mar 91

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 30—The Cambodian State will do all it can and is ready to discuss a number of points in the draft agreement of November 26, 1990 of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council [UNSC] with a view to arriving at a political solution to the Cambodian issue, said Heng Samrin, secretary general of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea [KPRP], on March 27.

Delivering his welcome speech at the Fifth Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, which opened in Vientiane Wednesday, Heng Samrin continued:

"Issued from the same source and struggling together against the common enemy, the Cambodian revolution, like the Lao revolution, went through many bitter struggles before winning final victory in 1975.

The special traditional solidarity and mutual assistance among Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam strengthened by the great assistance of the parties, governments, and peoples of the Soviet Union, China, and progressive people all over the world will never fade in the mind of the Cambodian people.

Regrettably, from 1975 to 1978 great disasters struck the party and people of Cambodia. But that was a great experience for the KPRP. We take Marxism-Leninism as compass and apply it to the country's concrete situation in order to stabilize and normalize social life. Especially, since 1989, basing itself on the characteristics of the Cambodian revolution and the realities of the international situation, the KPRP has applied an open-door policy in all fields to improve the living standard of the whole society and achieve national concord which, in conjunction with leniency, is aimed at ending the war and mobilizing all forces to rebuild the country. That policy has enjoyed broad support from the people and the international community, and enabled our party to fulfil all its revolutionary tasks.

"Acting along that policy, we will build an independent, peaceful, neutral, and non-aligned Cambodia, maintaining good relations with the neighbouring countries and all other countries in the region and the world, including relations with the party, government, and people of China, on the basis of the long-standing and fine friendship.

"In that sense, Cambodia wishes to reiterate its deep-felt gratitude to the international community for its unrelenting efforts to seek a peaceful solution to the Cambodian issue. For its part, the Cambodian State will do all it can and is ready to discuss a number of points in the draft agreement of November 29, 1990 advanced by the permanent members of the UNSC with a view to arriving at a political solution which will ensure the non- recurrence of what happened in the years 1975-1979 and help reestablish social stability, thus creating favourable conditions for general elections and guaranteeing the independence, sovereignty, and the right to self-determination of the people in conformity with the principles of the UN Charter.

"That is the constructive and realistic stance of Cambodia in the search for a just and fair solution without intimidation or imposition and based on the present political and military situation and the respect for the Cambodian people's right to self-determination," Heng Samrin concluded.

Kaysone Hosts Farewell Ceremony for Delegations

CPV Delegation

BK3003145591 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP], hosted a official farewell ceremony at Government House No. 1 at 0900 today for the delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] led by Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh after the state guests participated in the Fifth LPRP Congress at the invitation of the LPRP Central Committee.

Joining Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan in the farewell ceremony were Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau; Comrade Phao Bounnaphon, member of the party Central Committee; and a number of cadres concerned.

Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh and his delegation left Vientiane Capital on board a special plane for home at 1000 today.

Seeing the CPV delegation off at Wattai Airport were Comrade Phoun Sipaseut and several other high-level cadres. Comrade Nguyen Xuan, SRV ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos, and staff members of the SRV embassy were also at the airport.

KPRP Delegation

BK3003150191 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP], met and hosted an official farewell ceremony for the delegation of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] led by Comrade General Secretary Heng Samrin, at Government House this moring. The KPRP delegation came here to participate in the just concluded Fifth LPRP Congress at the invitiation of the LPRP Central Committee.

Also present at the meeting on the Lao side were Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau; Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit; Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, member of the Political Bureau; and a number of members of the party Central Committee. On the Cambodian side were Comrade Hun Sen, member of Political Bureau of the KPRP Central Committee; Comrade Sar Kheng, Political Bureau member of the KPRP Central Committee; and a number of members of the KPRP Central Committee.

The two sides informed each other about the successes and victories they have accomplished under the guidance of their respective parties, exchanged views on their internal and regional situations, and held consultations on strengthening special solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between the parties, states, and peoples of the two countries in conformity with the actual world situation and task of restructuring in each country.

Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan expressed his sincere thanks to the KPRP delegation for its participation in the Fifth Congress of our party and praised the successes in various fields made by the State of Cambodia in the past 12 years, citing the implementation of the open-door policy designed at improving social life and the national reconcilation policy. He also reaffirmed to the state guests that the party and government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic will continue to do their utmost to contribute to the settlement of the Cambodian problem through political means.

Comrade Heng Samrin also extended his wholehearted congratulations to Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan for the latter's reelection as chairman of the LPRP and praised the brilliant success of the Fifth LPRP Congress, which is another proof of the high-level unity and solidarity as well as the growth and firmness in all aspects of the party and the result of the mental efforts and strong determination of the entire party and Lao people.

After the meeting, Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan together other comrade leaders hosted a luncheon for Comrade Heng Samrin, Comrade Hun Sen, and their delegation.

In the afternoon, Comrade Heng Samrin and his delegation left Vientiane for home on board a special plane. Seeing the KPRP delegation off at Wattai Airport were Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, other members of the party Central Committee, and a number of cadres concerned. Comrade Long Kem, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the State of Cambodia to Laos, and staff members of the Cambodian embassy were also at the airport.

Thai Foreign Minister Invited To Visit

BK3103014891 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Mar 91 p 2

[Excerpt] Vientiane—Laos has invited Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin to visit the country from Friday to Sunday, Press Department director-general Vanhuang Vongvichit has announced.

While confirmation is yet to be received from the Thai Foreign Ministry, he said on Friday arrangements have been made to have Mr Asa meet Prime Minister and President Kaysone Phomvihan, Laotian Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut and other Laotian leaders during the visit, which will take place in the former capital of Luang Prabang.

Mr Vanhuang said Laos intends to improve relations with Thailand in all aspects. This corresponds with Mr Asa's recent foreign policy statement which gives top priority to Thai-Lao relations. [passage omitted]

Philippines

Minister Reports on Fact-Finding Trip to Mideast

BK3103102691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1015 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Manila, March 31 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia will accelerate development in areas near the Red Sea to ensure alternatives to vital industries located by the Gulf, Philippine Labor Secretary Ruben Torres said here Sunday.

Mr. Torres, who returned recently from a fact-finding mission to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, said the Philippines would benefit from a new "construction boom" in the kingdom's western regions with the end of the Gulf war.

Some 400,000 Filipinos are already working in Saudi Arabia, and about 60,000 were in Kuwait when Iraqi forces invaded the emirate in August.

Speaking during President Corazon Aquino's weekly television talk show, the transcript of which was released ahead of broadcast Sunday, Mr. Torres said the war taught the Saudis "a lesson" about the sites of their vital industries.

"Their system is too vulnerable," he said, noting that petrochemical, desalination and power generation plants were concentrated in the eastern areas along the Gulf.

Mr. Torres said the modernization of the Saudi Armed Forces would also require foreign labor because new camps, roads, schools and dwellings would have to be built, but the boom would not match that of the 1970s.

Mrs. Aquino said in the program that Filipino workers driven out of Kuwait by the Iraqi invasion should benefit first from the new job opportunities in the emirate.

Mr. Torres said Kuwait's demand for foreign labor would rise three months after the end of the war because the ravaged state was still in a "cleaning and clearing phase."

Estanislao Urges 'Shift' in Stand on U.S. Bases

HK0204054091 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 2 Apr 91 pp 1, 10

[By Lito Zulueta]

[Text] Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao has proposed to President Aquino a pragmatic shift in the Philippine position in the bases talks, stressing flexibility on the issue of compensation that could lead to "flexibility on duration" regarding the continued stay of the U.S. military facilities in the country.

Related to this, Estanislao said he expects a "full" bases compensation package of from $700 million to $1 billion per year to include "the whole broad range of financial assistance" that the U.S. can provide the country.

The package, according to the finance chief, includes debt-reduction measures such as U.S. support for another debt buyback scheme and for "maximum concessionality" under the Paris Club in the light of the debt condonation it granted recently to Poland. The compensation and duration issues will be tackled during the sixth and probably final round of the bases treaty talks, scheduled for April 9 to 12, according to Estanislao.

Estanislao was in Malacanang yesterday to report to Mrs. Aquino about the talks with Washington officials from March 19 to 28 on the bases compensation package. In a memorandum to the President that was obtained by the Chronicle, Estanislao said his talks with Washington officials had led him to come up with a "framework" for the compensation issue characterized by "pragmatic flexibility" and "strategic openness". By "pragmatic flexibility," Estanislao explained that the Philippines should not treat any "specific number" as "sacred for as long as the national interest is best served."

By "strategic openness," the finance chief said he is suggesting that "we close no doors and keep our options open in the search for alternatives that best serve our strategic national interest within an increasingly multipolar, interdependent world."

Estanislao said in trying to break the impasse between the Americans and Filipinos on the compensation issue, he proposed measures revolving "on our pressing economic needs."

"Flexibility on the full package of economic compensation can lead to flexiility on duration," said Estanislao. The Philippines has proposed a $285 million annual compensation package for a seven- year phaseout of the bases. The U.S. in contrast, has proposed $520 million, inclusive of its development assistance and its peldge to the Philippine Assistance Program [PAP] for a nine-to 12-year "phasedown" of the bases. (Minus its PAP pledge and the development assistance, the U.S. compensation package is only $360 million.)

In a talk with Malacanang reporters, Estanislao refused to give a specific amount on how much the Philippines could derive from any bases compensation package. "I am afraid we have gone beyond those formulas that were very stereotyped," he explained. "We have gone into what I would call a dynamic set of relationships which will enable us to derive maximum advantage for the Philippines."

The finance chief even refused to call the set of measures a "compensation package" or differentiate between the bases package and other forms of assistance the U.S. usually provides to the Philippines.

"The less we talk about compensation the better," Estanislao said. He explained that the bases talks had been labeled as the Philippine-American Cooperation Talks (Pact). "They certainly cover more than just the bases and that was the instruction given me: to go beyond the bases and to cover the whole range of Philippine economic needs."

Later, Estanislao said: "The broad range of cooperation can include precisely the bases plus everything else and that will come up to a very big amount of money." In his memorandum, Estanislao said the Philippines is seeking U.S. support to have its debt stock reduced, to increase its domestic budget support and boost its international reserves.

For debt reduction, Estanislao said the Philippines is seeking the support of the U.S. for:

—"Low-interest IDA (international development agency) terms for the Philippines at the World Bank and EFAI [expansion unknown] terms at the IMF."

—Recommitment of official resources for Philippine use for a second-round initiative under the Brady plan (debt buyback).

—"Maximum concessionality" under the Paris Club, "especially in the light of concessionality granted to Poland."

The Paris Club, an informal group of the six most industrialized Western nations plus Japan, recently condoned Poland's official debt, sparking a demand from some Filipino officials for the same treatment.

Estanislao indicated that by "maximum concessionality," the Philippines wants its official debt restructured under concessional terms as much as possible. The finance chief apparently feels a Poland-style debt condonation will not work for the Philippines.

Estanislao explained that most of Poland's debt is official while that of the Philippines is commercial. Moreover, he said that while Japan's development assistance to Poland is minimal and has been written off, its official assistance to the Philippine is large.

"What I cannot do is undermine the ODA (official development assistance) coming from Japan which comes to about a billion dollars per year just because we want to Polish formula. We will get to the results of Poland by using the Philippine route," he said.

For budgetary support, said Estanislao the Philippines wants the U.S.:

—To increase its current program such as HIG and PL480, the U.S. commodity loans to the Philippines.

—To provide surplus military, construction, and hospital equipment and supplies to the Philippines.

To boost its Philippine international reserves, the finance chief he asked U.S. support for:

—The Philippine counterpart financing schemes under the Asian Development Bank to ensure adequate flow of new money from the commercial banks.

—The Philippine dollar-denominated reconstruction and Development bonds to be issued at "concessional rates" and in "two big tranches."

Estanislao said he pointed out to the Americans that Philippine priorities are "clear". "We know what we want, and our economic flows dictates what we need," he said.

Negotiations on U.S. Bases To Resume 'Next Week'

HK0104052091 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 1 Apr 91 pp 1, 2

[By Arthur I. Bariuad]

[Text] Despite United States' preference for a 10-year phaseout of U.S. military installations in the country after the current agreement ends this year, Filipino negotiators will press for a seven-year "phasing-in" of Philippine control when formal negotiations scheduled next week resume in Manila, a foreign affairs official said.

The source said that Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus did not "surrender" to U.S. pressures and that the Philippine position remained unchanged. He said that there was still no agreement reached on two vital issues—duration and compensation. "Manglapus did not change the Philippine position of seven years for $825 million annual compensation," he stressed.

The two issues have prevented American and Filipino negotiators from forging a proposed treaty during the fifth round of bases talks. The talks last February were supposed to have been the last round of negotiations, which started in May with the exploratory meeting of Manglapus and U.S. chief negotiator Richard Armitage.

According to Manglapus, the sixth round of the Philippine-American Cooperation Talks (PACT) is scheduled to resume "first part of April" in Manila. Sources at the foreign office said the talks will start April 10. April 9 is Araw ng Kagitingin (Day of Courage). The sources also stressed that there was nothing unusual about Armitage's statement saying he foresaw the forging of a new RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Security pact on April 10.

Diplomatic sources said, however, that the U.S. bases panel had set a condition that it would agree to continue negotiations only if the Philippine side was ready to "initial" the proposed treaty of friendship, cooperation and security.

There have been speculations that Manglapus and Armitage have already reached a "tentative but binding understanding" on compensation and duration during Manglapus's trip to Washington last February. But the sources said that Manglapus "did not agree to a 10-year phaseout. There was no change in our position. The Americans want 10, we want seven."

The Manglapus panel wants the U.S. to pay the Philippines for hosting vital American defense outposts $400 million in annual cash grants and $425 million in non-budgetary items such as increased trade access, totaling $825 million attached to a seven-year phaseout duration.

The U.S. has offered a $360 million annual compensation linked to a "longer" duration. The offer was in "cash assistance" grants which consist of $200 million in Foreign Military Financing (FMF); $120 million in Economic Support Fund (ESF) and $40 million in Development Assistance (DA).

Bomb Explodes Near PNP Headquarters 1 Apr

HK0104155091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1527 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Manila, April 1 (AFP)—A powerful bomb believed planted by military rebels exploded outside the Philippine National Police (PNP) headquarters here Monday, but officials ruled out another coup attempt.

The explosion at Camp Crame's main gate caused no injuries and minor damage to a wall, eyewitnesses said. A bag of live explosives was found in the area after the blast and defused.

The incident came a few weeks after government and military authorities wrote off the possibility of another rebellion in the armed forces with the successive arrests of key leaders, although the most wanted one, former army colonel Gregorio Honasan, remains at large.

"They just want to conduct these terroristic activities and there may be more," the PNP commander for Manila, Brigadier General Marino Filart, told journalists.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the explosion, which came one day after the home of a prominent businessman was also hit by a bomb blast.

President Corazon Aquino's government has been fighting right- wing military rebels as well as the communist New People's Army. It has survived seven coup attempts by military factions, the last of which was a bloody uprising in December 1989.

Brig. Gen. Filart said the PNP had received intelligence reports that military rebels were planning to bomb armed forces and police camps during the Easter holidays. He said the rebels were "our initial suspicion" for Monday's blast but he denied it might mark the start of another coup attempt. He said "financial institutions" were also being targetted by "the right."

"The aim is really to destabilize...to show they are still there," he said. He said police would step up patrols around the capital.

A wave of bombings hit the capital in the third quarter of 1990 but was not followed by any uprising in Manila. A small group of military rebels attempted a rebellion in the southern island of Mindanao in October but it fizzled out in three days after failing to generate outside support.

A marine captain wanted for his role in the 1989 putsch was arrested on Sunday, the same day seven navy commandos who helped Mr. Honasan escape from detention in 1988 were sentenced to eight years at hard labor.

No Reports of Deaths, Injuries

HK0204072991 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0200 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] A bomb exploded last night near the entrance of the Philippine National Police [PNP] headquarters in Camp Crame which created a big hole in a concrete wall of the bus shed close to the PNP office's main gate. The Police Clearance Section building's window and wooden door were damaged; the ceiling also collapsed. Police claim the blast took place after the PNP announced the capture of a rebel soldier involved in the December 1989 coup. There were no reports of deaths or injuries.

Further on Camp Crame Bomb Blast

HK0204110091 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Combined reports of Joe Taruc, Jess Garcia, and Eloi Aquinon; italicized passages in English]

[Excerpts] Rightist rebel soldiers have once again launched a stream of violence. This was the fear expressed by the military leadership following the bomb explosion in front of Camp Crame.

CapCom [Capital Command] Commander Marino Filart said the Camp Crame bomb blast renders truth to intelligence reports that rightist rebel groups are mobilizing again to sow terror. General Filart is one of those who went to Camp Crame last night to personally view the consequences of the bombing. Aside from the destruction of the concrete walls of the camp, the doors, glass windows, and ceilings of the provost marshal building were also destroyed. General Filart said the bombs included dynamite and C-4 explosives. Investigators also obtained packs of dynamite from the site of the bombing. Other bombs diffused by bomb disposal experts were found hanging on the walls of Camp Crame. According to investigators, the second bomb did not explode as a result of a broken timing device caused by the earlier explosion. A total of 33 pieces of dynamite were found by investigators from the bomb that failed to explode.

Regarding this attack, Camps Aguinaldo and Crame, and the PNP [Philippine National Police] headquarters, were placed last night under red alert after a strong explosion near Gate One of Camp Crame. [passage omitted] PNP CapCom chief General Marino Filart said that the said explosion may be the work of leftist [as heard] terrorists who would like the public to know that their group still has the capability to launch another coup d'etat.

[Begin Filart recording] *With me, definitely that is, as far as we are concerned, that is a zero possibility. At this moment in time, we are talking about now. But you look,* what is the effect of this? You try to look at it. They just placed the bomb in one corner. *They did not want to harm anybody. Obviously, they expected nothing but publicity.* Come on, see, what is the effect of this really? Nothing was damaged except for the little damage on the fence of Camp Crame's gate, isn't it? [end recording]

Members from the central police district and the military are now trying to find out if the explosion in Camp Crame has something to do with the earlier bombing that occurred in the house of businessman Eduardo Lim in Mandaluyong.

In a related development, CIS [Central Intelligence Service] Chief General Vicente Vinarao disclosed today that they are currently trailing a suspect in the Camp Crame bombing last night. According to General Vinarao, they are hoping that the incident can be resolved within the week. He said, they are now undertaking the necessary operation against the identified suspects, and he has set a one-week deadline for his men to resolve the case.

Meanwhile, there is a great possibility that the men of the captured RAM [Reformed the Armed Forces Movement] officer Captain Juancho Saban have something to do with the bombing of Camp Crame last night. This was stated by Armed Forces Chief General Rodolfo Biazon who has also reported that the incident is now being investigated by the PNP. Nonetheless, Biazon explained that the bombing occurred after Captain Saban was presented before the media. It should also be known that the group of Saban is believed to be responsible for these kind of activities by the ultra-rightist group. When asked about the possibility of another extensive uprising, Biazon said that the rebels can no longer afford such an uprising. They can only carry out some bomb scares, but they can no longer launch a major attack.

[Begin Biazon recording] *That is possible, but I'm not saying probable. Remember that some of them are still out there and they can still do it. Can you define what you mean by major destabilization move? If you are referring to a possibility of a coup, it's not anymore possible.* [end recording]

It was discovered that the first bombing was just a signal of support by Saban's group for their captured leader.

Contingent Attacks NPA Camp, Kills 30 Rebels

HK0104133091 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 1 Apr 91 p 25

[By Robert Evora and Roy C. Sinfuego]

[Text] A 41-man contingent of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) attacked a New People's Army (NPA) camp in Oriental Mindoro and killed at least 30 rebel defenders, according to a flash report reaching the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame yesterday.

The government side suffered two casualties, a certain C1C [Constable First Class] Calabig and CAFGU member Aldrin Fajardo who were killed during the attack. Fajardo was earlier reported to have been wounded and flown to the Oriental Mindoro provincial hospital.

As of presstime yesterday, fighting was still raging in the hills at the boundary of Abra de Ilog and Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro. Reports said that the attack started at 11 A.M. Good Friday.

Reports said that the PNP forces blasted the rebel camp with several mortar shells. Later, two more PNP companies and the Regional Special Action Force (RSAF) were airlifted to reinforce the PNP attacking force led by Rafael Aguila, of the 261st PNP district based in Mamburao.

PNP Director General Cesar Nazareno ordered Chief Superintendent Evaristo Carino, PNP regional director for Region 4, to launch a hot pursuit combat operation against the rebels who were reported to have suffered heavy casualties.

PNP Director for Operations Honesto Bumanglag, in his report to Nazareno yesterday, said the body of Calabig was not picked up by a PAF [Philippine Air Force] helicopter due to strong winds and strong rebel resistance.

Bumanglag said that a PAF helicopter will attempt to airlift the body of Cabalig today as soon as the weather permits and the counter-offensive capability of the NPA rebels is neutralized with the arrival of the additional three PNP companies.

Military Releases 120 Soldiers of 1989 Failed Coup

HK3003032491 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0300 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] A top military official ordered the release of 120 soldiers imprisoned at the Sangley Naval Base Detention Center in Cavite. They were involved in the failed 1989 coup. Major General Alexander Aguirre, Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] deputy chief of staff, said these soldiers hold the ranks of private to corporal. AFP Chief of Staff General Rodolfo Biazon approved their release following the recommendation of Aguirre and Navy Chief Rear Admiral Mariano Dumangcas, Jr. Aguirre reported that the released soldiers were picked up by their relatives. They will be assigned to different Navy and Marine units after Holy Week.

Balweg Interviewed on Autonomy for Cordilleras

HK2803091791 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 26 Mar 91 p 10

[By Roy S. De Guzman]

[Text] In June 1986, Father Conrado Balweg did what some thought then was the impossible; quit the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] and its military arm the New People's Army [NPA].

Balweg's decision to leave the NPA stirred a hornet's nest. Balweg was one of the most popular communist figures then and the NPA did not lose him alone. Two other rebel priests, scores of party leaders, the NPA's top military tacticians and about 1,000 other rebel cadres left with him.

In leaving, Balweg was said to have told his colleagues that he left his vocation as a priest, embraced communist life and lived its teachings because he was convinced that the party and the NPA was committed to his people's cause: the recognition of their right to live with their own laws, practice their own customs, own the land they live on, and protect their people from the threat of intruders who seek to divest their place of its natural wealth.

Balweg said the CPP-NPA can never help the Cordillera people attain their dreams because it is directly contrary to their goal of setting up a highly centralized, unified government.

Thus was born the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA), headed by the ex-priest himself, and the Cordillera Bodong Association (CBA), a group composed of the elders in the region. Their aim, said Balweg, was to fight for genuine autonomy for the Cordilleras.

Then he did another unexpected thing. He agreed to meet a government representative—no less than President Corazon Aquino—and forged a pact that made the Cordillera people's struggle for autonomy at once legitimate and acceptable. But in the last three years, several things happened. The CPLA- CBA group earned the communists' ire, and a vicious armed struggle between the two warring camps erupted and continues to this day.

Balweg himself escaped death when his two-vehicle convoy was ambushed by the NPAs, but seven of his most trusted lieutenants were not so lucky and became the CPLA's first martyrs.

Somewhere along the way, Balweg's group had a falling-out with the Aquino administration, and soon, traditional politicians filled the void left by Balweg whenever the Palace wanted assurances that things were well, or at least appeared to be well, in the forsaken Northern Luzon region.

Balweg, now 48 years old, is nearing the breaking point with the powers-that-be, and has started looking elsewhere for the leadership and support that his people need to realize their dream. Their dream of one day really being able to call the Cordillera their land, their own. And Balweg, in an interview with the INQUIRER, realizes that he, and the people he says he represents, still have a long way to go. Excerpts from the interview with Balweg:

Q: What brings you to Manila?

A: Unang-una, sinusundan namin ang development ng issue ng [First of all, we are following the developments of the issue on] Cordillera autonomy, specifically on how the ComElec [Commission on Elections] is handling the issue. Dahil [Because] last year, when we decided to vote 'no' to the organic act, with the understanding na pag nanalo ang no [that if the 'no' vote wins], we will rewrite the organic act for the Cordillera autonomy. Talagang [Really] we did our very best. To the point that only Ifugao—one province—voted 'yes' in that plebiscite. So for us it is clear that we have to rewrite the organic act since democratically, nanalo ang 'no' [the 'no' vote won].

During the lobby [as published], when the drafting of the organic act was made, nagkaroon kami ng talakayan [we had a discussion] here in Manila with the president, General Ramos, Ileto and the Cordillera congressmen (except Dangwa), na papayag ang CPLA doon sa draft nilang organic act [that the CPLA will agree with their organic act draft] and (to hold a) plebiscite, basta't pag nanalo ang 'no' [provided that the 'no' vote wins] we will rewrite the organic act.

Ayaw sana naming matuloy ang plebiscite dahil ang laman noon ay [we did not really want the plebiscite to push through because its contents are] anti-autonomy, which was contrary to Executive Order [EO] No. 220. Pero dahil ang explanation naman ng mga [but the explanation of the] Cordillera congressmen is that they consulted the people and the organic act was their alleged wish. On the other hand, we in the CPLA-CBA have a different position.

Dito nagkaroon ng compromise na pag nanalo and 'no' [Here, we arrived at a compromise that if the 'no' vote wins,] we have to rewrite. But kung manalo ang 'yes' [But if the 'yes' vote wins,] we have to conform. That was the deal, dahil [because] the autonomy of the Cordilleras should not be taken apart from its history that this started through a negotiation.

Iyon ang [That is the] reality. This is not a simple issue. Nag-umpisa ito sa rebolusyon. Iyon ang sinusunod namin. So noong nanalo ang 'no' [This started from a revolution. This is what we followed. So when the 'no' vote won,] we expected na [to be] back again to EO 220. And we have to rewrite the organic act kasi 'yun ang napagkasunduan namin [because that was what we agreed on.] That was October 20, 1989. That was the agreement.

But still, although only one province voted 'yes', they still decided na [that] that province shall comprise the Cordillera autonomous government. So we protested that that was illegal, that was unconstitutional. And yet the president affirmed that that was legal. So we had no other alternative but to file a petition in the Supreme Court, and good enough na nanalo ang aming petisyon sa [our petition won at the] Supreme Court. The decision came out last December wherein the Supreme Court ruled that it is unconstitutional for just the province of Ifugao to comprise the Cordillera autonomous region.

So following the decision, EO 220 should be the binding law. And illegal 'yung ginawa nila Cory, na Regional Development Council, Administrative Order No. 160. So sa ngayon [The establishment of the Regional Development Council by Cory based on Administrative Order No. 160 is illegal. So as of now,] we are following the implementation of EO 220 as affirmed by the Supreme Court.

Q: After the Supreme Court ruling, what has the government done?

A: What happened was that in the ComElec, there suddenly (arose) this issue about the alleged failure of elections in Kalinga Apayao. That was on December 21. So, sabi naman ng Malacanang [Malacanang said], they will not implement yet EO 220, as decided by the Supreme Court, dahil [because] they will wait for the results of the plebiscite in Kalinga-Apayao.

Malinaw sa amin na hindi totoo na [It is clear with us that it is not true that] there was failure of elections, (particularly) allegations that the CPLA and the NPA (harassed voters) during the plebiscite.

I have here the documents in Tinglayan, signed by the teachers, the barangay officials, the vice mayor and other municipal officials, and even the PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] that there was a peaceful and orderly election in Tinglayan, and they submitted a report saying that there were no CPLA or NPA members before and during the plebiscite. (Heto [Here], we have hundreds of signatures here).

But in spite of these evidences, the ComElec still decided there was a failure of elections (in some parts of Kalinga-Apayao).

Q: How do you interpret these moves by the ComElec?

A: Dalawa ang nakikita ko dito [I can see two things here]. Malinaw sa akin na [It is clear to me that] the ComElec had become a partner of corruption in the discussion for democracy, for the establishment of a Cordillera autonomous region. Talagang kasangkot na ang ComElec diyan sa mga katarantaduhan at kagaguhan nila Claver [The ComElec was really in cahoots with the notoriety and stupidity of Claver] (He was the one who petitioned the ComElec to hold anew a plebiscite in some areas of Kalinga-Apayao). One thing, we (in the CPLA-CBA group) should have been the respondents, but we were not informed about this case, in spite of the fact na [that] I tried to make representations with (former ComElec Chairperson) Haydee Yorac, questioning why they were secretive about the hearing of the case. But she responded that it was their prerogative whether tawagin kami o hindi [to call on us or not]. And they even had the hearing doon sa Tuguegarao, sa

Delfino Hotel [there in Tuguegarao, at Delfino Hotel]. Bakit doon pa sila nagtatago [Why did they have to hide there]? Alam naman niyang [She knows anyway that] this is an important political issue that transcends political boundaries. It pertains to the whole people of the Cordillera, as well as the commitment of the national government (to us). Eh bakit ganoon na lnag nila itinago and petisyon nila Claver [Then why did they have to hide Claver's petition]? But like I said, we have the documents saying that there had been no failure of elections, and the results of the plebiscite were even submitted to the ComElec. (Only 743 of 5,978 voters in Tinglayan, the biggest disputed area, voted 'yes'; 2,736, 'no'; and 2,499 abstained).

The other issue, I believe, is that they are trying to manipulate, by all means. They insist on pushing for Cordillera autonomy through that organic act, and with the autonomous government comprising Kalinga-Apayao and Ifugao. This will only divide the Cordilleras.

Kung desisyon lang ito ng mga mamamayan, okey lang sana [If this was the people's decision, it would have been okay]. Pero hindi naman [But it was not]. This is a manipulation of the ComElec and Congressman Claver. So ito ang nakikita kong malaking problema ngayon [So this is the big problem I now see]. People voted ('no') unanimously in the last plebiscite in the belief that democracy will be instituted in the Cordilleras. But (it turned out) na ang dapat sanang mamuno sa pag-i-institutionalize ng [that the one who was supposed to lead in the institutionalization of the] Cordillera autonomy, turned out to be the culprit.

Masyadong dirty ang ginagawa nila [They are playing it too dirty]. They have corrupted democracy. I would compare this with what the NPA is doing today, they snatch the ballot boxes in some areas in Kalinga-Apayao and they prevent the people from actually voting. They are killing democracy softly, not through violence, but through the manipulation of what they call legal. Sa tingin ko nga yon [So I now think], this government is going nowhere in its commitment to institutionalize autonomy in the Cordilleras.

So we intend to follow up uli itong isang kalokohang ginawa ng ComElec [again on this manipulation of the ComElec]. Sige, sabi namin, subukan ninyo [Go ahead, we said, you just try]. Although we do not recognize the results of the next plebiscite in Kalinga- Apayao, since this is illegal. But for the sake of confirming true sentiments of the people, we decided, "Sige, pabayaan natin ang ComElec at i-support natin na magkaroon uli ng bagong plebiscite. Para ipakita, once and for all, 'yung kalokohan at kagaguhang ginawa ng ComElec at ni Congressman Claver" ["Alright, let's allow the ComElec and support the holding of a new plebiscite. So that once and for all, the notoriety and stupidity of the ComElec and Congressman Claver can be exposed"].

Q: Do you believe that 'no' will again win in the areas where the plebiscite will be restaged?

A: Yes. 'No' will win by even a larger margin than before. So pumayag na kami [So we agreed already], much as we we do not recognize the planned new polls. They keep on postponing this, for three times already, hanggang naging indefinite [until it became] an indefinite postponement already.

Ito ang nakakalungkot [This is the sad part]. Ang sabi nila, walang pera ang gobyerno [They say that the government has no money] in terms of development. Yet, with this manipulation of a plebiscite, they are willing to spend money again—ganoon lang kadali, ganoon lang kabilis [that's how fast, that's how easy].

Q: After the final results are out, what do you expect from the government?

A: From our previous experience, it is clear that this government is really against autonomy. I believe, however, that whether they like it or not, they have to conform to the mandate of the people. That has been the consistent demand since we had negotiations with Malacanang. Of course, kanya-kanyang posisyunan yan [that's each on his own positioning]. We are heading autonomy in one direction. The government has its own direction. And so has the CPP-NPA. So we must submit the issue to the people, and we should respect their decision.

We can see that the government is trying to destroy Cordillera autonomy legally. The CPP-NPA is trying to destroy it by fascism. Pero ganoon pa rin, nagpapanawagan akong [But nonetheless, I still appeal that] the decision of the people should be upheld.

Q: One of the ComElec's reasons for postponing the restaging of the plebiscite in Kalinga-Apayao is the alleged eruption of tribal wars in the area...

A: There are no more tribal wars in Kalinga-Apayao now. Ipinatigil na namin ang tribal wars doon sa [We have already put a stop to tribal wars in those] areas mentioned by the ComElec, Tinglayan and Bangad. At hindi naman sagabal 'yan sa pagkakaroon ng [And it is not a hindrance to the holding of a] plebiscite. There are rules that they follow. Before the plebiscite, it was arranged that there would be no fighting at least a month before the voting took place. Puwede naman ang ganitong arrangement sa ethics of war ng tribe [This arrangment anyway, is possible in tribal ethics of war]. So hindi totoo ang mga bintang nilang [So there is no truth to their allegations that] they cannot hold the plebiscite because of the tribal wars. Naayos na naman ang mga 'yan [All these have been resolved].

Ngayon, nang makita ng ComElec na stiff ang resistance sa Kalinga-Apayao sa gusto nila [Now, when the ComElec saw the stiff resistance in Kalinga-Apayao to what they would like to happen], they shifted to the Mountain Province. They are saying na [that] there was a failure of elections in the Mountain Province. And what is even funny in Mountain Province's case, they filed a petition only last October 12, when the plebiscite was January 30, and the period has already prescribed for them to do so. And yet ComElec is entertaining this.

We have documents showing that through the orders of Congressman Victor Dominguez, the ComElec personnel in Mountain Province tampered with the plebiscite forms in the province. ComElec mismo ang nagtamper [ComElec itself tampered with them]!

Q: Why don't you go to the ComElec and report these findings of your group?

A: Hindi ko na alam [I don't know] if I still trust the ComElec, dahil [because] I have found out that it is dirty. So what I think should be done is for cause-oriented groups from Manila to come over to the Cordilleras and report the irregularities committed by the ComElec in Kaling-Apayao and in Mountain Province.

Q: Why is autonomy so important to the people of the Cordilleras?

A: It is due to this recognition of our people's right to autonomy—first by the President, and later even enshrined in the Constitution—that we did not see anymore the basis for armed struggle. But for us, Ifugao alone cannot possibly be the Cordillera autonomous region.

I supported this government because of its commitment to democracy. But the moment this government becomes insane, don't expect the CPLA to support the government. We will continue to campaign for autonomy, even if it means more of us getting martyred. In fact, there were more of us who were killed by the NPAs now than during Marcos' time.

Q: You mentioned the NPA. How strong is the NPA now in the region?

A: Mas mahina ang NPA [The NPA is weaker] during the Marcos regime than today. Mas lumalakas ang NPA [The NPA is gaining strength] during this regime of Cory Aquino. Unang-una, sa bilang ng NPA [First of all, in the number of the NPA]. Mas dumadami sila ngayon kaysa noong Marcos regime [They are increasing more rapidly now than during the Marcos regime]. Noon, umabot lang kami ng 3,000 sa buong Pilipinas [Before, we number only 3,000 in the entire Philippines]. I know, because the Cordillera was the strongest base of the CPP-NPA before, and I was the one who held the national assessment on the distribution of political forces in the country.

Ngayon umaabot na sila ng 4,000 to 5,000 sa buong Pilipinas [Now, they are about 4,000 to 5,000 in the entire Philippines]. And in terms of weaponry, the NPA is more advanced now. They now have mortars and anti-aircraft (guns). They have more M-14s and M-16s.

Isa pa, 'yung tipo ng labanan [And another thing, the type of warfare]. Ngayon, nakakasugod na ang NPA sa mga headquarters [They can now attack headquarters]. Dati-rati, puro isolated attacks lang kami [Before, we only engaged in isolated attacks]. Ngayon, marami nang military detachments ang na-overrun [Many detachments of the military are now being overrun].

Q: To what do you attribute this sudden rise in NPA strength?

A: Well, mainly because the government is weak. Mahinang-mahina ang gobyerno [The government is very weak].

Q: But the military top brass says that they are about to wipe out insurgency here...

A: How did they arrive at this assessment?

I'll give you examples. Halimbawa, ang NPA noon sa Ilocos Sur ay [Take for example the NPA in Ilocos Sur before which was an] undersized platoon. Mula sa amin sa Cordillera ang nag-training diyan [Those who trained came from us in Cordillera]. Now, they have an oversized company already. Sa Ilocos Norte, over-sized squad nag-umpisa ito; ngayon, company-size na sa Ilocos Norte [In Ilocos Norte, it started as an over-sized squad; now it has become company-size]. Sa [In] Benguet, it was only semi-legal noon [before], ngayon naka-steady na sila doon [now they have steadied themselves there].

Pumunta tayo sa labas ng Cordillera [Let's go outside of Cordillera]. Sa Zambales, undersquad noon (In Zambales, it was undersquad before]. Ngayon, nakapagtayo na sila ng separate units sa Pangasinan [Now, they have put up separate units in Pangasinan]. Dati, sa Oriental Mindoro, one full-sized squad lang sila noon, hindi pa sila maka-attack [Before, in Oriental Mindoro, they used to be a one-full-sized squad only, and could not even attack]. Ngayon, sila ang nago-offensive [Now, they are going on the offensive].

So hindi totoong humina ang NPA [So it is not true that the NPA has weakened]. Kahit dito sa Maynila, wala silang capability na mag-harass before [Even here in Manila, they didn't have the capability to harass before]. Wala namang sparrow units noon, at hindi rin namin mapakialaman ang mga rallies, ang mga Welgang Bayan noon [There were no sparrow units then, and we cannot also get involved in the rallies, and in national strikes before].

And now, here is Cory Aquino, saying the NPA is down to 17,000. This is not true. Hindi pa umabot sa 10,000 ang NPA [The NPA has never reached 10,000] at anytime. Kung mayroong 7,000 na NPA ngayon [If there are 7,000 NPA now], I would say marami na silang naliberate na probinsiya [that they have already liberated many provinces].

Pero [But], it is precisely because the government is weak that we support it. We should help bring about democracy.

Q: People say you seem inclined to run for public office...

A: I used to believe that in normal times, we can find several people who are more capable of running the Cordillera government than us.

Pero wala na akong tiwala sa kanila [But I don't trust them anymore]. They became pawns of the traditional corrupt politicians. They have submitted to the desires of the national government, and have helped corrupt democracy in the Cordilleras.

I now plan to take a more active role in the growth of autonomy in our place. I would like to prove that I can provide the much needed leadership in the Cordilleras.

Q: As a congressman or as a senator?

A: No, hindi pa doon [Not that yet]. Siguro [Maybe], if the executive branch agrees to implement EO 220 and reinstall the Cordillera Executive Board and the Cordillera Legislative Assembly, I would offer to lead these two bodies.

Q: Do you still hope that the kind of autonomy you envision is still possible under the present regime?

A: May isang advantage ang pagiging weak ng government ni Cory [There is an advantage in Cory's government being weak]. At least, we are free to gather and educate our people. Under the Marcos regime, we were persecuted. That's the big qualitative difference. Although its support for our struggle is mere lip service, the government however, allows us to educate and organize our people on our own.

Q: What are your plans regarding the presidential polls next year?

A: Definitely, we in the Cordilleras will actively take part in the national elections next year, and we are going to support a president; someone who will help us carry out our vision of autonomy in our land.

Wala pa kaming definite na susuportahan, pero [We don't know yet whom to definitely support, but] it will be easy to determine, through the process of elimination, who will get our backing. Definitely, we cannot support anyone who has been associated with Marcos before. (That rules out, says Balweg, Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, Vice President Salvador Laurel, Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, businessman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.) Two other presidential timbers, Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. and Senator Aquilino Pimentel Jr., have contributed to the destruction of democracy in the Cordilleras by insisting on the anti-autonomy Organic Act which they presented to us in a plebiscite. Hindi nila ibinigay ang genuine autonomy sa amin [They didn't grant us genuine autonomy].

It is very premature to say who will definitely get our support. But as of now, there are three people whom we are considering to support. They are Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Senator Joseph Estrada, and Senate President Jovito Salonga. They are supportive of our struggle and seem to be quite firm in their nationalist convictions.

Q: Are you now sorry you supported Cory Aquino?

A: To some extent, I will not regret having done that. Because it was through her that the struggle of the Cordillera people was given recognition, legitimacy and validity. It is now part of the Constitution and now a law of the land.

Thailand

Prime Minister: Resignation Rumors 'Inaccurate'

BK0204075391 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Before attending a Cabinet meeting this morning at Government House, Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun talked to reporters about yesterday's rumors in the stock market that he will resign from the premiership.

The prime minister said the rumors are inaccurate and that he has not thought about resigning. Asked about the causes of such rumors, the prime minister said he did not know, but it might be just Thai-style rumors.

Asked if he is satisfied with his job, he said he would like to continue his work and has not had suspicions about anything. On reports that the prime minister will visit other countries to boost Thailand's good image, the prime minister denied such reports and said he does not have a program to visit other countries.

On restoring the country's image, the prime minister said he has not paid much attention to this and has concentrated more on his work. If the government implements its tasks well, its image will be good. On the other hand, if it does not, its image will not be good. Therefore, image would depend on our actions. On whether the government's performance or image is good or not, this would depend on how the media and public sees it, Anan pointed out.

Responding to a question about comments by some academics that the draft government policy statement is the same as the old one, the prime minister said this is a matter of opinion, and that every one has the right to his own views or to criticize things anyway they like. However, one should think whether this draft policy statement adds anything to the old one or whether there are parts of it that are alike.

The prime minister said he personally believes this draft policy statement is clear. He said he will try to put what is stated in the draft policy statement into action as quickly as possible. In addition, the prime minister said the government policy statement would be delivered to the National Legislative Assembly meeting on Thursday 4 April.

NLA Meeting Elects Chairman, Vice Chairmen

BK0104133291 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] The first meeting of the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] was held today. It elected Ukrit Mongkhonnawin as assembly chairman, Asa Meksawan as first vice chairman, and General Wichit Bunyawat as second vice chairman. Our correspondent reports on the atmosphere at the meeting:

[Begin Nopphadon Sihathai recording] The NLA meeting proceeded in a lively atmosphere throughout the afternoon until its adjournment at 1435. A total of 272 members attended the meeting; only 20 members were absent.

After the secretary general of the parliament read the royal appointment of the 292 members of the NLA, the members stood up to recite an oath. Bunchana Atthakon, the most senior NLA member, presided temporarily over the session to elect a chairman and vice chairmen of the NLA. Phichai Watsanasong proposed Ukrit Mongkhonnawin as chairman, while Asa Meksawan and Gen. Wichit Meksawan were proposed as first vice chairman and second vice chairman respectively. No rival candidates were proposed. The meeting, therefore, elected the chairman and vice chairmen as proposed. [end recording]

Ukrit Gives News Conference

BK0204035491 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] National Legislative Assembly [NLA] Chairman Ukrit Mongkhonnawin and NLA Vice Chairman Asa Meksawan jointly gave a news conference at the National Assembly yesterday afternoon.

Having been elected NLA chairman, Ukrit told reporters that he was proud for the opportunity to serve the country and will try his best to perform his duties in coordination with the two NLA vice chairmen for the utmost benefit of the country. He said he will strive to bring to the Thai people a true and perfect democratic system which is permanent so that future generations can assume their democratic heritage.

Reporters asked how the NLA will push for various legislations with the limited time it has to perform its duties. He said the duty of this NLA is to consider various draft bills proposed by the government. Regardless of the number of draft bills the government will propose, the NLA will consider them quickly and fairly. If the number of NLA meetings is still not sufficient, he will consult with the NLA vice chairmen to schedule more meetings in order to speed up consideration of various draft bills.

Asked how the NLA will speed up the consideration of the draft constitution, Ukrit said one has to wait until the NLA has appointed a 20-member constitution drafting commission. After that, the commission will map out ways to carry out the task. The constitution drafting commission will be able to work independently. He and the NLA vice chairmen will follow the work closely and will advise the commission so that the constitution drafting can proceed speedily in compliance with the objectives of the present Constitution of the kingdom. It will also take into account the possibility of holding general elections by the end of this year, the NLA chairman concluded.

Sunthon on Policy Statement, Chaloem, Manun

BK3003101391 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] General Sunthon Khongsomphong, supreme commander and chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly [NPA], granted an interview to newsmen at the Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall [parliament] this evening. When asked about the selection of a president of the National Legislative Assembly, he said the NPA will not interfere and that it is the sole responsibility of the legislative assembly.

Concerning the government's policy statement, he said that except for a small question of wording, the NPA agreed with all points in the statement. He thinks the policy presentation in parliament will take place next week.

Asked whether the NPA knew anything about Police Captain Chaloem Yubamrung's whereabouts, Gen. Sunthon said it still could not check. Concerning Major General Manun Rupkhachon, Gen. Sunthon said he has been dismissed from service and that his rank will be stripped. Gen. Sunthon said Manun can be brought back if he is taking refuge in Germany. There is no need to seek extradition because Manun faces a criminal charge. Asked if the police would be sent to bring him back, Gen. Sunthon said he will have to discuss this with the police because he knows nothing about these procedures.

Further on Interview With NAP's Chawalit

BK2903022591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Mar 91 p 4

[Text] Controversy is nothing new to Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut. Even when he was Army chief, his comments on politics and the country's democratic development were cause for much criticism and comment.

Now, as New Aspiration Party [NAP] leader his statements earlier this month on the National Peace-keeping Council (NPKC) and the February 23 coup d'etat have likewise prompted much discussion.

Gen Chawalit says he doesn't understand why, but adds that his comments on recent political events—detailed in a letter to NPKC chief Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong—were made out of a "genuine" intention to caution against possible problems that lay ahead.

"Many people have commented on the letter," he told the POST in an interview on Wednesday. "Some say I wrote aiming to defend myself with regard to actions of the NPKC; that the NPKC's actions benefitted me and the New Aspiration Party. Some say I wrote the letter for political benefit, others that I wrote the letter because I have conflicts with friends. I wrote the letter so that they (NPKC) will consider what they are doing carefully. I want them to keep in mind the responsibility that they have for this country. This has been my real and genuine intention. What they are doing now will have a considerable impact on the nation in the future. Especially with regard to security and national political stability. I wrote the letter as a person who used to have the same responsibilities to this country."

Gen Chawalit explained that the letter contained two main issues: his comments on the Political Parties Law, and the Constitution. In his letter, Gen Chawalit called for the revocation of the Political Parties Law and warned of possible "adverse and irreversible" results of adopting a new political system, namely the separation of power as advocated by the military junta.

The NAP leader believes there are a number of reasons why this law should be revoked and professes that the best way to encourage true democratic development would be to encourage political parties to grow "naturally."

"Revoking the Constitution, yet retaining the Political Parties Law is a strange thing. The Political Parties Law is part of the Constitution. Elements of the Constitution are contained in the Political Parties Law so that there can be political activity. "So when you revoke the main law and don't revoke the lesser law, then it is not quite suitable."

The NPKC stated five reasons for seizing power of which Gen Chawalit considers the first as most important: that the junta wants to destroy the prevailing "parliamentary dictatorship."

"I agree with this. But to state this reason yet retain the mechanism which causes parliamentary dictatorship is somewhat strange. The Political Parties Law has certain measures which restrict the rights and freedom of political parties," he said, citing for example the regulation that parties must field at least half the number of candidates in the House to make it eligible to contest as a party in general elections.

Although the law is aimed at fostering strong political parties, Gen Chawalit said that after 10 years in use, it had failed to achieve this objective. The law, he says, does not take into account that genuine strength "must occur naturally."

"A political party is the centre or organisation which galvanises those people who have similar thinking. The Political Parties Law does not stipulate that the party must be a party of the people or what we call a mass party which is the intention of a democratic system. "A political party which is a real part of the people does not need a law to govern it."

Gen Chawalit argues that wide membership is crucial for genuine strength and growth of political parties. "If we intend to build a party for the people, a real mass party, this will create strength for the political party system because the party is a crucial factor in building the system."

But obtaining members alone is not sufficient. Gen Chawalit argues that a relationship needs to be established between the party and its members. "We must have activities to show that the party is of benefit to them or the people as a whole," he said, adding that the NAP has launched a number of projects (four) to do this, so that members will know the party intends to help them.

"The benefit of this is that it will eradicate vote-buying. The vote-buying system occurs because of the 'patronage system' which currently exists and the political party system must replace this."

In the past MPs [members of parliament] were the ones who chose where they ran and were virtually independent of the party. "They didn't choose the party because of its policies, therefore they chose bags of money. The mistake of the past 50 years is that we have not built up a genuine political party system to coincide with the intention of the political system" he said, inferring that many parties did not even act as if they intended to become a permanent institution.

"There are many good parties, such as the Democrats. They have a building, something permanent, but the others do not. They do not consider it something to make permanent, somewhat ad hoc or like a task force."

"This is even more complicated. Why is it so confusing? The system of separation of power and the parliamentary system are completely different matters. The parliamentary system and the separation of power means a system which shows the relationship between the administrative and legislative.

"If they run parallel, then this is a parliamentary system. But if they originate from different ways then this is called a separation of power," he said, noting that both systems define a relationship between the adminstrative and legislative branches of government. For Gen Chawalit, the difference between the two systems is where the "balance of power" is located.

Under the parliamentary system it is the clear intention that the administration is governed by the people and the people can govern themselves through their representatives whose role is to propose laws. For this reason, the legislative branch is considered the "main institution" under the parliamentary system.

"The other theory says that this system does not work because those in Parliament are working for the benefit of the party and that parliamentary members are only acting for the legitimacy and righteousness of the administration. Therefore the administration and the legislative must be separate. And under the separation of power, the president has the higher authority."

The former Army chief emphasised that both systems have nothing to do with the Monarchy and that was why he is confused about the comments and criticisms against him, referring specifically to M.R. [Mom

Ratchawong, designation of royal family] Khukrit Pramot. "I think he is commenting because he loves me and is teasing me."

But Gen Chawalit insists the separation of power is nothing new to Thailand, having been used by Field Marshal Thanom Kittikhachon and adopted in other countries having a monarchy, such as Norway.

Asked if the system would be suited to Thailand, Gen Chawalit said: "It has nothing to do with whether a country has a monarch or not, but rather whether it is suited to the conditions in that country. They are completely different matters."

The former Army chief said an introduction of the separation system in Thai politics would raise problems, particularly the question of which body would hold the "balance of power."

"In this world, even though there is a check and balance, there must be one authority which holds the balance," which has a little more authority over others, which holds the whole system together, referring as an example to the sun and the planets, the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Security Council.

"Our country is different from other countries such as the US. We have a Monarch and when you use separation of power, you can't use this system because we don't have a system where the King is joined in the adminstration. Therefore we need someone to hold the balance of power. Who will that be? That will probably have to be the Senate. If we use separation we must then have the senators (to hold the balance) and don't you think that would be confusing?

"But if you let senators hold the balance, they are considered as part of the legislative" and this therefore would present a number of problems, one of which is that the system has never elected its senators. Another problem is that Thais do not accept the concept that a representative can come from other means, such as through appointment.

"We don't accept that representatives of the people can come from other methods. Our country only accepts the fact that a true representative must come from elections when in fact representation does not have to come from elections alone, but by appointment or self-appointment," he said.

Asked to comment on the proposal that the country's senators could be appointed after being chosen from people from various walks of life and that MPs could play a role in the final selection, Gen Chawalit said:

"How can senators hold the balance because the people don't accept this (selection by appointment). But who chooses? We have not even developed political parties, labour unions, farmers and teachers unions. Who chooses? All we can say is select. Somebody up there chooses (pointing a finger upwards) and according to what? What are the guielines?"

For these reasons Gen Chawalit urges extreme caution in plunging into a political system when the current system has not yet been fully tested or problems in the system adequately eradicated, to allow it to fully work.

"As I said in the beginning, if we are to leave one system and start another system we must ask whether we have screened or searched for the mistakes and resolved the mistakes and tested the system fully. I did not say I am opposed to the separation of power but have just questioned whether we have considered it carefully enough. If we have, fine. But if we have not done this, jumping to another system could cause damage to the country. I am afraid. Aren't you? Because all this time this circle has occurred. How many times has this occurred? However many constitutions have we had?

"We have a Constitution, an administration, then military seizes power, then drafts another (Charter) and so on. How many times has this occurred? We are still in this vicious cycle. We see falsely that the Constitution is the one that will guide the progress of the nation and that elections will help. In fact, no."

Gen Chawalit said the NPKC should concentrate on solving and eradicating mechanisms which make the current system dictatorial, and then step down from power.

"The people have accepted the NPKC which means that it has sovereign power. If not, the people would have opposed it. The only thing for the NPKC to do is use their authority to create things the people want. What do the people want? An administration that is democratic. Give them freedom. Look at what is unequal in this country and solve it. What laws are not correct, change them. If there are faults in the election system, change them to make them more just and to gain the people's confidence and don't become involved in separation or not. For what? We should use the power to destroy each mechanism which is dictatorial. I am afraid that they will forget other matters and then we will be back in the same cycle again. We are talking today (March 27, 1991) but then in a number of years we may be back here talking about it again: Why has it come back to this? This does not solve the problem."

Asked if the military junta could end up holding administrative power itself, like former prime minister Gen Kriangsak Chamanan, the NAP leader said: "Don't let me comment on whether they will do it or not, but I have already warned before. In truth, they say the way to make the Army a guarantor for the country, for stability of the country, is to do it until the vehicle you are riding is tired and then step down. Like getting down from a white horse but not switching to ride a tiger. Because if you ride the tiger there will be problems. But believe me, we will remain on the white horse if you do what the people want. I think my younger brothers already have headaches but I think that in their hearts their intentions are genuine. They are determined to solve problems. What I have warned is that they must choose their path carefully." Gen Chawalit added, however, that it may be unlikely for the NPKC to remain in power long because of the interim Constitution.

The former Army chief says he is not concerned about the analysis that the adoption of a separation of power would effectively block his political prospects. "I am not worried. I am not worried. Just do it. But please do it correctly. Don't worry about me. Whatever happens I will pursue the path of political party. As a political party our main task is to help the people. That's why I am worried. MPs, no matter how bad or good they are, fill the gap in the local area. Government officials cannot yet reach the people. There's a gap and the MPs fill that gap. The MPs bring the hardships of the people to the government official. At least this is what MPs do. It is a duty outside parliament. In fact it is not stipulated in the Constitution but it is a duty which is of utmost importance. Don't worry about me. No matter what the system, I intend to buld up New Aspiration as a party of the people and we will have a role to play."

Officials Deny Reports on Pakistani Hijackers

BK0204031191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Apr 91 p A4

[Text] Senior government officials yesterday denied reports that three of the four Pakistani hijackers shot dead by Singaporean commandos after seizing a Singapore Airlines flight from Kuala Lumpur last week came through Thailand.

Interior Ministry's Permanent Secretary Charoenkit Na Singkhla and Police Chief Pol Gen Sawat Amonwiwat said that it was impossible because foreigners entering the country are closely checked at Bangkok international airport or border checkpoints.

National Security Council (NSC) Secretary-General Suwit Suthanukun cited reports from Don Muang Airport officials that the Pakistanis had not appeared at the airport. However, Suwit said he was awaiting reports from officials at the southern border checkpoint.

Foreign Minister Meets Visiting Senator Kerrey

BK3003080891 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] U.S. Senator Robert Kerrey, who is a member of Senate committees on appropriations and agriculture, this afternoon called on Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin in a bid to strengthen relations. The two exchanged views on the situation in Thailand and its neighboring countries. Sakthip Krairoek, director general of the Information Department, reported to correspondents about the meeting:

[Begin Sakthip recording] They exchanged views on the situation in Thailand's neighboring countries, especially in Vietnam, Laos, Burma, and Cambodia. The foreign minister offered his views on several topics of interest. The two discussed bilateral relations. Senator Kerrey took note of steps taken by Thailand toward achieving full democracy through elections which will be held in the near future.

On Cambodia, both sides agreed that the Permanent Five's plan is good and appropriate as a guideline to be followed by all parties concerned. On Laos, the foreign minister said that Thailand attached special importance to that country because Thailand and Laos are very close in terms of language, religion, and several other aspects. Thailand will do its best to assist Laos. About Burma, he said no matter how that country is viewed by foreigners, Thailand must have sympathy for and maintain good relations with Burma since the country is at such close proximity to us. [end recording]

Sunthon To Visit Laos 'End of This Month'

BK0204032191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Apr 91 p A2

[Text] Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong is expected to visit Laos towards the end of this month to confer a royal decoration on his Laotian counterpart Gen Sisavat Keobounphan, informed military sources said yesterday.

The sources said Laotian officials are also expected to repay the visit at a later date as part of the attempts by the two countries to improve relations.

Gen Sunthon, who is leader of the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC), will also meet Prime Minister Kaysone Phomvihan during his one-day visit, the sources said. Kaysone was last week named president of the Laotian Communist Party, a post that gives him added political influence.

The sources said Thai officials are trying to finalize details of the visit which will come amid signs of improvement in Thai-Lao relations. Thailand and Laos have withdrawn troops from disputed border areas as a major indication of their new friendship.

Gen Sunthon, the sources said, will confer the Knight Grand Cross of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant—the highest form of royal decoration for foreign dignitaries—on Gen Sisawat to demonstrate the two countries' closer relations.

Gen Sisawat was last week removed from the powerful 11-member politburo at the end of the Lao Communist Party congress. Gen Sisawat is known in Thailand for his role in negotiating a ceasefire after a brief border clash in northern Thailand at the end of 1987. The sources said Gen Sunthon also plans to visit Vietnam early in June.

Chatchai To Return for 'Short Stay' 11 Apr

BK0204045191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Apr 91 p A4

[Text] Former prime minister Gen Chatchai Chunhawan will return to Thailand on April 11 for a short stay, a former Chat Thai MP [member of parliament] said yesterday.

Rewut Chindapon, an ex-MP, said at the birthday party of deputy Chat Thai Party leader Sano Thianthong in Phuket province that Chatchai will come alone and is expected to stay in the country for about five days. The former prime minister would then return to England, he added.

Gen Chatchai is scheduled to be awarded, from His Majesty the King, a Ratthanapon (First Class) medal on April 12. The former prime minister left for London on March 12, a few days after he was released by the ruling military junta who had toppled his administration in a coup on Feb 23. Gen Chatchai has been staying in London and did not go on to Switzerland as he had earlier planned.

Sano told a group of well wishers at his residence last Saturday that Chatchai was still considered leader of the Chat Thai Party because he had not officially tendered his resignation.

The former deputy interior minister, who is among more than 20 politicians whose assets have been ordered frozen pending a probe by a military-appointed committee headed by Gen Sitthi Chirarot, said that Chatchai should be allowed to spend the rest of his life in Thailand, and not be forced to stay in a foreign country. He said if Chatchai had to quit the Chat Thai leadership, then the top party post should go to party chairman Pol Gen Praman Adireskan. Sano said he would wash his hands of politics if the new constitution, to be drafted by the National Assembly, drastically reduces MPs' powers.

Officer Updates Situation on Cambodian Border

BK3103095491 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Press statement by Lieutenant General Narudon Detpradiyut, director of the Supreme Command Information Office, on the fighting inside Cambodia; place, date not given—recorded]

[Text] There is still fighting inside Cambodia. Thailand's border areas are affected but not as heavily as in the past. During the past month, border casualties have been reported in Sisaket and Prachin Buri Provinces. A number of villagers and officials have been killed and wounded. Armed Khmer bandits have continued to operate inside Thai territory. They have clashed with Thai officials in Surin, Prachin Buri, and Trat Provinces. A number of Thai villagers have been killed by those Khmer gangs. Thai authorities have been trying to capture and eliminate them. In the period under review, one Khmer bandit has been killed and four captured. Authorities found caches of weapons, ammunition, and explosives in provinces bordering Cambodia.

2 Arrested for Transporting Arms From Laos

BK3103065291 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] Nong Khai—Police siezed 37 hand grenades and about 20,000 rounds of ammunition and arrested two men after a wild car chase in Tha Bo District on Friday night.

A police squad led by Lt-Col Suriya Warinthra seized the weapons after chasing a black Nissan pick-up truck which smashed a police roadblock in Ban Pho District in Udon Thani at 8.45 p.m.

Police searched the truck, which veered off the road and into a klong during the chase, and found 12 gunny bags containing 400 rounds of ammunition for M16 rifles and more than 18,000 rounds for M1 rifles. The two men on the truck, Lop Phromma, 51, and his son Chanchai, 24, were arrested.

With information given by Chanchai, police yesterday searched a chicken coop and found 37 M79 grenades hidden under rice. Lop reportedly said he had been paid 10,000 baht by a merchant in Udon Thani to deliver the ammunition from Laos to Udon.

Vietnam

Nguyen Van Linh Returns From Laos 30 Mar

BK3003153691 Hanoi VNA in English 1455 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 30—A delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam led by General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh returned here this morning after attending the fifth congress of the Laos People's Revolutionary Party.

Before leaving Vientiane, General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh and Chairman of the LPRP Central Committee Kaysone Phomvihan had an exchange of views, focusing on the consolidation and development of the special friendship and comprehensive cooperation between the parties, states and people of Vietnam and Laos. They compared notes on questions relationg to peace, stability and friendship in Southeast Asia.

The Vietnamese delegation was seen off at Watay Airport by Phoun Sipaseut, Politburo Member of the Lao Party Central Committee, Vice Chaiman of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign affairs.

Nguyen Van Linh Greets Kaysone on Election

BK3003151991 Hanoi VNA in English 1453 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 30—Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, today congratulated Kaysone Phomvihan on his election as Chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Commmittee.

In his congratulatory message the Vietnamese party leader said: "I firmly believe that under the leadership of the LPRP Central Committee, fifth congress, headed by you the renovation process of the Lao people of all nationalities will achieve new, great successes. May the solidarity and special friendship between the parties, states and people of Vietnam and Laos constantly consolidate and develop."

NHAN DAN Welcomes Soviet Referendum Results

BK3003085291 Hanoi VNA in English 0717 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 30—"The Vietnamese people rejoice at the result of the March 17 referendum in the Soviet Union," says the national daily NHAN DAN in a commentary today. The paper continues: "The result of the referendum demonstrates the Soviet people's high sense of self-confidence in their choice and represents a failure of the secessionists' attempt to sabotage and boycott the referendum. In the extremely complicated developments of the Soviet socioeconomic and political society at present, the referendum proves the political maturity of the majority of the Soviet people and the concern all Soviet citizens about how to solve the country's vital problems."

NHAN DAN goes on: "Through their own experience, the Soviet people have clearly realized that only by standing shoulder to shoulder in difficult times as well as in peace time could they serve the supreme interests of the country and of each nationality." "However, from the positive results of the referendum to the successful building of a renovated union of sovereign republics there remains a long way full of difficulties and complexities," NHAN DAN notes.

"We are confident that the fraternal Soviet people will overcome all trials and hardships to successfully build a multi-national state based on the union of all sovereign, united and renovated socialist republics," NHAN DAN concludes.

VNA Reports on Energy Talks With USSR

BK2903161991 Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 29—Minutes of the 18th session of the Vietnamese-Soviet energy cooperation group was signed here today.

Signatories were Nguyen Dinh Tranh, Deputy Minister of Energy, and A.B. Semenov, Soviet Vice Minister of Electrical Engineering and Electrification.

During a week-long session the two sides reviewed the results of their cooperation in 1990, and discussed measures to step up the cooperation in 1990, and discussed measures to step up the cooperation in such projects as the Hoa Binh Hydro-electric power plant, the Tri An hydro-electric power plant, the development of the 110-220 kv electric network, and the improvement of electric networks in Hanoi, Haiphong and Ho Chi Minh city.

While here the Soviet delegation was received by Tran Duc Luong, Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Further Reportage on Holding of Party Congresses

Technical General Department

BK3003125791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Report by Ngoc Bao on "the five-day party organization congress of the Technical General Department, which concluded on 14 March 1991"—portions recorded]

[Text] The Technical General Department has held its first-round party organization congress with 150 delegates representing 528 party members belonging to 48 party chapters within the general department. Of those participating, 70 percent had college and graduate-level education.

Earlier, after three months of heated debates at the grass roots, various party chapters in the general department contributed 2,339 ideas to the five draft documents of the Seventh Party Congress. Mass organizations such as trade unions and the youth union of the Technical General Department also gave 49 different ideas to the draft platform for socialist construction during the transitional period.

After five days, the first-round party organization congress of the Technical General Department thoroughly discussed these documents. Some 50 essential points on ideology, guidelines, policies, and major solutions derived from the draft documents of the party congress were presented for discussion. With a new thinking and a high democratic spirit among the internal ranks, the party organization congress of delegates of the Technical General Department generated a constructive, ebullient, and practical atmosphere with a determination to concentrate on discussing major points without being sidetracked.

Delegates expressed their absolute unanimity over the timing for the introduction of the platform, strategy, and report on party building. A number of delegates, however, proposed that the platform point out principle views and avoid lengthy explanations with abstract arguments. They said problems which have not been carefully studied and criticized, both in theory and practice, should not be brought up. In the draft strategy for economic stabilization and development until the year 2000, stricter and more accurate evaluations of the achievements are necessary. Measures to develop and stablize the economy should be presented more clearly and persuasively. The aim of doubling the 1990 per-capita national income by the year 2000 is too modest. Only with economic stability and development and by repelling inflation can we meet the people's basic needs for an improved material, cultural, and spiritual life. The party and the state should work out uniform solutions against corruption—a dangerous illness now ravaging the socialist legislation and eroding the people's confidence in the party. On this basis, it is necessary to promote increased production and social labor output, and the aim of tripling or quadrupling the 1990 national income.

Discussing the question of how to purify the party, Comrade Nguyen Phuong Toan said:

[Begin recording] To improve the party's militancy, we should satisfactorily carry out two tasks, namely building a contingent of truly vanguard and exemplary party members and improving the leadership role and skills of grass-roots party organizations. In the first case, we should constantly ensure that party members are politically qualified [words indistinct]. As for the actual capabilities of party members, we should resolve to cultivate and improve their capabilities and their manners. It is imperative for party members to volunteer for training to improve their knowledge and awareness. There should also be additional training for new party members. To translate the draft documents into reality, it is necessary to promote good relations between party organizations and their members and to resolutely purify the contingent of party members. We should remove degraded, deviant, and corrupted members and those who no longer qualify. Fighting corruption here means fighting corruption inside the party. In consolidating the party, we should first strengthen grass-roots party organizations and broaden and develop democracy within our organizations. Party members who have shown division, nepotism, and disunity and who have bullied the masses and party members (?have turned themselves into the enemy) of the working class. Those whose militancy has seriously declined [words indistinct] must also be removed. We should reduce the number of unqualified members to improve the party's prestige. [end recording]

In its chapter dealing with the policies on national defense, security, and foreign relations, the platform focussed on major points. However, given the current international and domestic situation, building the People's Army into a powerful force capable of defending the fatherland and the socialist regime should be given appropriate attention by the party, state, and entire people. There should be an appropriate incentive policy to encourage youths to join the army. To emphasize the importance of national defense and security, it is necessary to rearrange and divide this chapter into two different parts—one on national defense and security and another for foreign relations. In addition, it is necessary to clearly define the party's leadership role over the army. The People's Army should be built along the revolutionary line of standardization and modernization.

To further analyze national defense, Comrade Nguyen Dac Lan, a representative of the Technical Maintenance Department, said:

[Begin recording] To translate the party platform into reality, I believe in future that our army should continue to implement the two strategic tasks expounded in Resolution 02 of the Sixth Party Central Committee's Political Bureau. This consists of: (1) Building the People's Army into a high-quality, standardized, and modern army with a reasonable standing in personnel strength, revolutionary spirit, a firm political stance, and high combat readiness capable of defending the socialist fatherland, the socialist system, national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; and (2) Participating in economic construction to turn out more material products for society and combining national defense with economic construction.

Regarding the maintenance of technical quality also based on the spirit of the Political Bureau's Resolution 02, and proceeding from the state of the army's weapons and equipment and from the maintenance requirements of operations of armed force units, the task of defending the fatherland and building the army toward stardardization and modernization should be linked with national defense. We should intensify the study of military science and art, promptly use technical findings, [words indistinct]. We should study and gradually improve our system of weapons and equipment and should conduct research into manufacturing weapons according to combat requirements [words indistinct]. In addition, I believe that the state should invest in this area in order to improve the quality of the army, weapons, and equipment, and should build a national defense industry strong enough to ensure better equipment for the armed forces. [end recording]

To further emphasize the theory of time, many delegates suggested in the draft platform, that we should more clearly analyze adaptablity in the current situation, while further clarifying the basic contradictions of our time. We should emphasize the long, difficult, and complex character of this historical process.

Touching on the reasons for past mistakes and weaknesses by various party organizations, many delegates regarded shortcomings in personnel organization as the root cause of problems. Many echelons and localities have relaxed personnel management. The party does not have a satisfactory policy toward scientific cadres both inside and outside the army and fails to ensure a consistency between ideological work and personnel organizational work.

After five days of intensive work, the party organization congress of the Technical General Department expressed its confidence in the party's renovation undertaking. A delegation of good quality party members was also elected to attend the all-army party congress.

Hoang Lien Son Province

BK0104152591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Party organizations of agencies and sectors of Hoang Lien Son Province have recently held their first round third congresses with the participation of 100 delegates representing more than 1,500 party members.

Delegates animatedly discussed the party draft documents and lessons of the socialist construction lines set forth by the party. Many delegates suggested that the second lesson of experience should be upgraded to the first lesson in the draft platform on socialist construction, while the fourth lesson should replace the second lesson. They also called for a separate chapter on a socioeconomic development program for the ethnic minority regions because they need a commodity-based economy rather than the current natural one. Delegates also suggested that the state should invest more in these regions, that the party should strengthen its leadership role and party building task, enhance its militancy, oppose negative phenomena, and effectively curb corruption so as to promote the people's confidence in the party. Many delegates also suggested that party draft documents should be translated into ethnic minority languages to solicit more ideas from the minority groups.

The congresses elected 33 officials and two alternate delegates to the Hoang Lien Son provincial party organization congress to be held soon.

Thanh Liem District

BK0104115491 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Thanh Liem District of Ha Nam Ninh Province just held its first round party congress.

From the experience as an agricultural production district, the representatives suggested the party and state have practical policies to encourage peasants to increase production. They also suggested the party and state pay more attention to the work of selling materials and buying products in the area. They said that it is necessary to intensify the work of giving land to good working peasants to cultivate and to implement well the peasant-care policies.

Some opinions suggested a reexamination of the functions and duties of the agricultural cooperatives. In Thanh Liem District, peasants still have to contribute an average of eight to 12 percent of their products, every crop, to the cooperative's fund, but the agricultural services are of very low effectiveness and there is no responsibility bound with the cooperative's management.

4th Military Region

BK0204075091 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 31 Mar 91

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Continuing to report on party congresses at all levels before the holding of the Seventh National Party Congress, today's QUAN DOI NHAN DAN frontpages a report saying that at the first round congresses of the 4th Military Region and Signal Communication Corps party organizations, the delegates focused on debating democratically and frankly. They asserted that only through renovation can the revolution in our country surmount all difficulties and cause the country to advance.

Opposing corruption is a pressing issue in the present stage. The party should organize measures to counter corruption specifically, vigorously, and more positively from the central down to the grass-roots levels. The party should build a contingent of qualified and competent cadres to carry out its renovation task. Most of the delegates proposed that the system of field-grade and lower rank political officers in the army be restored in order to intensify party leadership over the army.

The delegates of the Signal Communication Corps party organization stressed the current situation in the country, saying that the enemy is attempting to oppose and sabotage us from many directions. Many opportunists have propagated antisocialist viewpoints. More than ever before, the party must assert clearly the principle of proletarian dictatorship.

Concerning assessment of the socioeconomic situation, many delegates focused on criticizing mistakes and shortcomings in leadership and guidance, and in large-scale management and operational control. Many delegates mentioned neglect in building the party and the contingent of cadres. This is also one of the causes of the current difficult socioeconomic situation.

Paper on Investment Forum in Ho Chi Minh City

BK2803044791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Mar 91 p 20

[By Suphaphon Kanwirayothin]

[Text] Many leading Thai and Japanese investors agreed they would rather spend three to five years assessing Vietnam's legislative and institutional framework than invest immediately in the country.

Thais, Koreans, Japanese and French who have committed capital to small and medium-sized joint ventures with Vietnamese partners say their investment role has come about after several years of becoming acquainted with Vietnamese system and environment, and how to tread the labyrinthine course of having things done the Vietnamese way.

During the March 11-15 investment forum in Ho Chi Minh City, 1,200 meetings between investors and Vietnamese partners took place, with 48 letters of intent being signed for a total value of $439 million. From the list of 187 investment projects featured at the forum, 80 will undergo further study, 20 will be subject to further negotiations and 18 were subject to requests for feasibility studies.

Yet this does not mean massive volume of investment were pledged. The commitment from Vietnamese authorities that legislative and structural reforms would be carried out to make the system more suited to foreign investment was seen as encouraging, but the process leading to a workable system in Vietnam for non-socialist entrepreneurs will take a lot of time and money.

Officials of both the Vietnamese Government and two United Nations agencies which organised the event said there was a definite need for follow-up issues. Vietnam needs to flesh out more details, particularly the feasibility aspects for an array of projects after many participants said the details given were too sketchy.

Other major hurdles also surfaced. The Foreign Investment Law of 1987 still leaves a number of critical issues unresolved even though it contains many attractive features and incentives.

Regulations governing labour relations in the foreign investment law was one area of uncertainty highlighted in a recent report compiled by the Vietnamese State Planning Committee and the United Nations Development Programme. The report said these regulations had great potential "to cause problems for foreign investors."

"One of the most important of these is the continuing direct and indirect pressure exerted by labour administrators to influence the recruitment policies of foreign investment firms in favour of politically acceptable rather than technically qualified personnel," said the paper circulated at the investment forum.

A series of amendments to deal with these grey areas have been issued, but they still fail to address one of the main complaints of foreign businesses: that they have to hire labour through government-operated agencies and service companies at wages above the accepted market rates, and that a substantial proportion of these earnings is retained by the government.

Thai, Japanese and Korean investors interviewed by BUSINESS POST said the labour in Vietnam was cheap, "but it's the double-standard system whereby foreign firms do not pay the local rate."

Japanese investors in general would prefer the "liberal system and quality of labour in the Philippines" to those of Vietnam, said one.

Vietnamese Labour, Social Affairs and War Invalids Vice Minister Nguyen Van Quang responded to this charge by saying workers were entitled to receive their full salary.

"But they are bound to pay 10 percent of their salary for use as retirement insurance, death allowances and subsidies to dependent relatives," he said.

Laws and regulations are one thing, implementation is another. That is where the problem lies.

Several foreign companies, offices and organisations were told by their employees' that they received only between 10 percent and 40 percent of the salary demanded by the state-run labour recruitment offices.

Mr Quang said the minimum wage of $50 a month was the "minimum remuneration for non-sophisticated work performed under regular conditions. It is supposed to allow workers to replenish their forces and maintain normal daily activities. It is conceived in the current context where workers no longer enjoy any kind of state subsidy."

Other grey areas also exist involving other investment-related regulations, including the question of foreign-exchange controls, banking and trading rules.

Potential investors questioned procedures for setting up representative offices during the period when their companies were assessing business opportunities.

Vietnamese officials responded: "We are still facing a great deal of difficulty, mainly the shortage of houses and the backwardness of infrastructure, so the setting up of foreign representative offices has suffered some constraints."

But Vietnam hopes that in the coming period, "we shall be in a position to accept establishment of representative offices on a broader basis," according to Commerce Vice Minister Le Minh Triet.

Vietnam has promised to introduce banking regulations in the near future covering the establishment of branches and joint-venture operations.

State Bank of Vietnam Deputy Governor Le Minh Chau said Vietnam appreciated the many foreign countries opening branches in Vietnam and even investment funds from abroad.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation [UNIDO] has reported that the increase in foreign investment interest over the past 30 months was remarkable but was still well short of Vietnam's true potential.

"To perhaps an even greater extent than the US-imposed economic sanctions, the failure by Vietnam to realise its true potential in attracting foreign investment may be attributed to the persistence of a number of institutional and regulatory impediments to the smooth absorption of foreign investment funds and the implementation of foreign investment projects," said the UNIDO report.

Besides inadequate infrastructure, the most important issue which still must be tackled by Vietnamese policy-makers is the inadequate access to funds, both domestic and foreign, to finance the required levels of working capital and desired levels of investment.

Government restrictions on foreign exchange severely restricts some companies, especially those supplying the domestic market only and not generating any foreign-currency earnings of their own.

The impact of these regulations is worsened by the limited availability of local investment funds, especially for private enterprises.

The creation of a suitable financial infrastructure, comprising at least a reasonably well-developed commercial banking network and at best an efficiently functioning capital market, is therefore an important prerequisite to more rapid investment growth.

A Thai businessman attending the forum said enthusaism initially inspired by prospects in Vietnam was dispelled by the ways things operate in Vietnam as opposed to the quasi-capitalist style of Thailand.

Some Thais also blamed the Thai Government for problems, for not providing the necessary information on Vietnam after encouraging them to adopt the policy of turning the Indochinese battlefield into a marketplace as proposed by former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan.

The half-hearted support from the Thai Government apparently reflects the secret recommendation from the National Security Council last year that "the Thai Government should not do anything that would boost Vietnam's economic wellbeing until the Cambodian problem is settled."

Most Thais are still awaiting "sucess stories" from foreign enterprises in Vietnam.

Singaporean businessmen and consultants made up many of those at the investment forum, describing their presence as a "fact-finding mission, as there is what you might call a shortage of information about Vietnam among Singaporean investors."

In his message to Vietnamese leaders, UNIDO Director-General Domingo Siazon said: "Attracting investment is not an easy job. Vietnam is competing with a host of other countries in the region with better infrastructure and substantial experience in doing business based on a market system."

Government Plans To Sustain Rice Exports

BK0204053791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Apr 91 p 28

[By Supaphon Kanyawirothin]

[Text] Hanoi—Vietnam intends to sustain its ability to export rice at a rate of one million tonnes a year over the next five years, despite the Gulf war and higher prices for Soviet fertiliser.

Until this year the Soviet Union supplied more than 70 percent of Vietnam's fertilisers, selling at a fixed price under a five-year agreement which ended this year when the two countries began dealing with each other in hard-currency terms.

Last year Vietnam rivalled Thailand as major rice exporter, putting out 1.4 million tons of rice into the world market.

The one-million-tonne export target takes into account the fact that Vietnam has to feed a population which increases by one million a year, said Nguyen Van Phuoc, director of the international cooperation department of the Agriculture and Food Industry Ministry in an interview here with Business Post.

However, Mr Phuoc conceded there were "many difficulties" in achieving the export target, and said Thailand should not look to Vietnam as a competitor.

"At present we have to import fertiliser and insecticides at market price, and our farming technology and infrastructure are low compared to Thailand. We face immense difficulties in transportation and storage and our production relies very much on the weather," he said.

More importantly, Vietnam has no traditional markets like Thailand, which as secured government-to-government rice export deals with a number of countries.

"We have to export to pay debts, for India, Indonesia and France. Some countries in Africa are now interested in discussing such deals similar to what Thailand has with some countries," he said.

The Gulf war also had resulted in fertiliser price hikes, at the same time pushing up domestic rice prices.

Calculated in the free-market price scale, Vietnam was likely to spend US$200 million, and another $20 million for insecticide, according to Mr Phuoc.

Vietnam must sustain the level of one million tonnes of exports to bring earnings for the necessary imports of farm machinery, fertiliser and for debt services, he said.

The country also had entered the fray of fluctuating world commodities prices under the new agreement with the Soviet Union and the former East Bloc countries, with coffee being the first to deal the blow of depressed world prices on Vietnam.

Because of Vietnam's 2 percent population growth rate, it may not be able to meet its target export amount.

"Every year we have one million more people to feed," Mr Phuoc said.

From being a substantial net importer of rice for most of the 1980's, Vietnam became the third largest rice exporter in 1989 with shipments of about 1.4 million tonnes.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation [FAO], in this year's forecasts for the world rice trade in the March issue of its Food Outlook bulletin, said exports from Vietnam this year were likely to fall more than 50 percent, after two successive years of large shipments.

Rising domestic rice prices have cast increased concern over the adequacy of domestic supplies to meet internal demand and the export quota for rice has been reintroduced, the report said.

As a result, so far in early 1991 rice shipments from Vietnam had been limited, according to FAO.

But the organisation said should the winter-spring harvest turn out to be large, Vietnam could still emerge as a significant competitor this year.

The rice-growing regions in the country concentrated around the Mekong River Delta in the south which yielded three crops a year, and the Red River Delta that offered two major crops and one lesser yield a year.

Mr Phuoc said Vietnam's productivity would increase dramatically if its farming technology could match Thailand's.

Vietnam, he said, hoped to be able to invest in rice storage capability and improve its transportation network for food distribution.

Australia

Resumption of Exports to Kuwait, Food to Iraq

BK0204072491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0528 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Wellington, April 2 (AFP)—New Zealand said Tuesday it would allow the export to Iraq of foodstuffs and humanitarian items.

Foreign Minister Don McKinnon said in a statement New Zealand was being guided in its actions by the United Nations Security Council.

Regulations prohibiting trade and financial deals with Kuwait would be amended immediately, but it would be some time before normal dealings with Iraq would occur.

"Naturally, we are all a bit wary and want to be sure that Iraq will not again constitute a threat to international peace and security," Mr. McKinnon said.

New Zealand exported modest amounts of meat and dairy produce to Iraq in the past.

Welfare System About To Receive 'Fatal Blows'

BK3103075891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0732 GMT 31 Mar 91

[By Michael Field]

[Text] Wellington, March 31 (AFP)—A cradle-to-the-grave welfare system which made New Zealand a social laboratory is to receive Monday the first of what are likely to be fatal blows.

Welfare payments to the unemployed, the sick and single mothers will be cut between 10 per cent and 16 per cent, while a universal benefit for every child will be scrapped.

Under the socialist scheme, everyone contributed according to their means and drew according to their needs in an undiluted egalitarian worker's dream. But the experiment in democratic socialism has failed.

The money the system entails was not to be found in a predominantly agricultural society suffering diminishing terms of trade, and it has had to be borrowed.

Social services in 1989 cost 9.123 billion New Zealand dollars (5.291 billion U.S.), or 38 per cent of total government expenditures.

Welfare costs continue to rise. In 1975 the pension for a married couple was set at 61 per cent of the average wage, while today it is 73 per cent.

Prime Minister Jim Bolger urged New Zealanders on Sunday to face up to the country's economic crisis. "If we don't accept the scale of our difficulties, we will not take the necessary steps to correct them," he told Radio New Zealand.

"The scale of our debt is unprecedented...and as we talk we're going into debt a further 80 million dollars (46 million U.S.) a week.... We're going to unlock the economy and get it moving forward."

Monday's cuts will be the first dose of what Finance Minister Ruth Richardson called "stiff medicine."

Many here fear the cuts will lead to genuine poverty and an increase in crime.

New Zealand began its welfare system in 1898 with a pension of 18 pounds a year for people 65 years and over who had led a "sober and respectable life."

Its advocate, Prime Minister Richard Seddon, predicted that it would be "copied by...the whole of the English-speaking peoples of the world."

In 1938 the government consolidated various other measures to create the world's most comprehensive social welfare system. It provided superannuation for everyone over 65, a pension for those over 60 and benefits for widows, orphans, children, invalids, miners and the unemployed, and a general illness benefit.

Today critics say that instead of delivering security, the welfare state has caused debt, unemployment and third-rate social services.

The decline of New Zealand's economy has been well documented. Earlier this month the organisation for economic cooperation and development said New Zealand's relative economic performance had deteriorated steadily.

The country has an "insular, inefficient, increasingly rigid, inflation-prone economy," it said.

Another report spearheaded by Harvard business school Professor Michael Porter said New Zealanders had become "one of the most indebted peoples on earth."

New Zealand's system had dampened the pressures and rewards for upgrading skills, productivity and living standards, it said.

"Despite the persistence of government deficits and the increasing portion of the economy taken up by social welfare spending, the nation's ability or otherwise to afford this system has received surprisingly little attention," the report said.

Social objectives have always been paramount in New Zealand, illustrated by a willingness to incur debt levels that would concern most Third World governments, the report said.

Nevertheless successive governments, it said, have simply borrowed and hoped.

Papua New Guinea

Somare Says Government Not To Nationalize Mine

BK0204095891 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0803 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Papua New Guinea's foreign minister, Sir Michael Somare, has given a guarantee that the government will not nationalize CRA [Conzinc Riopinco of Australia, Ltd.]-controlled Bougainville copper mine. Radio Australia's Port Moresby correspondent, Brian Abbott, reports that Sir Michael says the Australian mining giant would be treated fairly and reasonably by the government.

He said it was a personal initiative of his to discuss the sale of CRA interests in the Bougainville mine with the company and with the American investor, Mr. (J. Pritska). He said he had no vested interests and only wanted to see proper equity and reasonable returns for Papua New Guinea.